



EXTENDING  
THE FRONTIERS OF  
ENGINE COMPONENT TECHNOLOGY

# FINANCIAL TIMES

No. 29,793

Saturday November 30 1985

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## COLD NEWS

### Seychelles exile killed in London

Exiled Seychelles resistance leader Gerard Hoareau was shot dead outside his London home yesterday.

Anti-terrorist squad detectives are looking for a man seen opposite his Edgar house.

Other right-wing exiles, including deposed President Sir James Mancham, accused the island's leader, Albert Rene, of being behind the killing. Seychelles officials in London denied the claim.

Mr Hoareau came to England four years ago after a jail term for distributing anti-government literature.

### Glasgow family killed by gas explosion

Five people died when an explosion, followed by a fire, devastated a block of four flats in Glasgow. A family of four, including a baby, were among the dead. Investigators found a fractured four-inch gas main nearby.

### Japanese rail attacks

Left-wing guerrillas were blamed for attacks of arson and sabotage against Japanese railroads in Tokyo and Osaka. Page 3

### Egypt on alert

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sayyid Abdel-Maguid said security on the Libyan border had been stepped up, but denied Libya claims that Cairo was planning an attack. Page 3

### Israel apologises

Israel apologised to the US over the case of an American Jew accused of selling military secrets to Israel. Page 3

### Tit-for-tat expulsions

Ghana expelled four US diplomats for spying. Washington ordered out four Ghana embassy staff in reply. Page 2

Liverpool plays for time

Liverpool City Council approved a solution to the city's financial crisis which will leave its capital resources severely depleted in two years. Page 4

### Elton John 'wins £5m'

Singer Elton John and songwriter Bernie Taupin hope to receive £5m in unpaid royalties after winning a High Court case. Defendant Dick James Music said it would be less.

Owen urges referendum

SDP leader Dr David Owen called for a referendum on proportional representation, saying most people supported it. Page 4

S. Africa security move

South Africa is to step up border security by replacing police units with soldiers, following recent attacks. Page 3

### Journalists held

Liberia said several journalists, including BBC correspondent Isaac Bantu, were being held after this month's failed coup.

### IXL chief loses licence

John Elliott, chairman of Australian brewery group Elders IXL, which has bid for Allied Lyons of the UK, lost his licence after six months in Melbourne for drunken driving. Page 10

### Batham at Land's End

Cricketer Ian Botham completed his John O'Groats-Land's End walk, raising £400,000 for leukaemia research. He will walk through London on Monday to try to attract business donations.

### Financial Times

The UK price of the Financial Times goes up on Monday from 35p to 40p. This is the first rise since August 1982.

### MARKETS

#### DOLLAR

New York: DM 2.515  
FFr 7.6725  
SFr 2.054  
Yen 22.4  
London: DM 2.511 (2.5055)  
FFr 7.6678 (7.72)  
SFr 2.051 (2.058)  
Yen 21.1 (20.15)  
Dollar index 126.3 (126.5)  
Tokyo close Y202.05

#### US CLOSING RATES

Fed Funds: 7%  
3-month Treasury Bills: 11.62%  
Long Bond: 10.02%  
Sight: 9.52%  
  
GOLD  
New York: Comex Dec  
\$322.9  
London: \$25.0 (82.65)  
Chicago price changes yesterday. Back Page

## BUSINESS SUMMARY

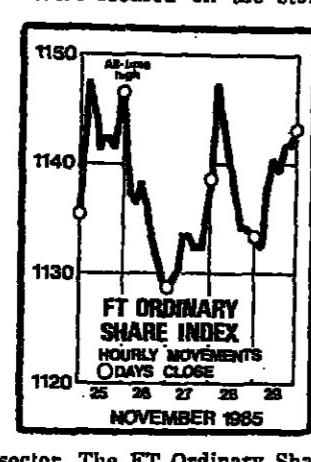
### Sinclair to seek £10m after loss

SINCLAIR RESEARCH, the troubled home computer group, is seeking £10m external finance after a pre-tax loss of £18.3m in the year to March. A profit of £14.3m was made in the previous year.

Sir Clive Sinclair, founder and chairman, said the money was needed to provide working capital and fund product launches next year. Back Page; Background Page 4

TOKYO Stock Exchange is to admit six overseas investment banks and securities houses, including Vickers da Costa and SF G Warburg of the UK, as members. They will become the first foreign members in a 10-seat expansion which includes four Japanese firms. Page 11; Lex; Back Page

TAKEOVER speculation brought a volatile week in London equities to a firm close, with interest focused on the stores



sector. The FT Ordinary Share Index recovered an early fall to finish 9.8 up at 1,142.9, four points short of Monday's record 1,146.9. Page 14

SINGAPORE faces the prospect of the first collapse of a public company following failure to agree on a rescue package for Pan-Electric Industries. Greater government regulation of the stock market is expected as a result of the crisis. Back Page

US money supply M1 rose \$2.8bn to \$81.6bn in the week to November 18.

GOVERNMENT has decided in favour of one supervisory body, rather than two, to regulate City financial markets. Page 4

FRANCE pushed up to the limit of the EEC clampdown on steel subsidies with a two-year FF120bn (£12.5bn) aid programme for its producers. Back Page

ITALIAN Government is prepared to give financial backing to the country's helicopter manufacturer, Agusta, to take a stake in Westland of the UK. Back Page

BERLEY (UK), lingerie producer, which has its factories in Wales, called in a receiver when County Bank, a main shareholder, requested immediate repayment of a £555,000 loan. Back Page

CANNON GROUP, Los Angeles-based owner of Classic cinema chain, and Gerald Ronson's privately-owned Heron International made a joint bid worth nearly £110m for Thorn EMI's screen entertainments arm. Page 10; Lex; Back Page

AKZO, Dutch chemicals concern, claimed victory in its £14m bid for British paint maker Blundell-Permoglaze after facing a late challenge from Reed International. Page 10

MATTHEW BROWN, Blackburn-based brewer, facing a hostile £128m takeover offer from Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, reported a 16 per cent rise in full-year taxable profits to £8.2m. Page 10; Lex; Back Page

CITY OF London bankers are to sell Bond Aid certificates in the financial community on behalf of an appeal intended to raise millions of dollars for the Save the Children Fund. Page 4

STERLING

New York: \$1.487  
London: £1.4885 (1.477)  
DM 3.7375 (3.725)  
FFr 11.4125 (11.4025)  
SFr 3.0975 (3.085)  
Yen 300.75 (297.5)

Sterling index: \$1.3 (50.8)  
LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank:  
Chest rate 11.5% (same)  
3-month eligible bills:  
Buying rate 11.5% (same)

STOCK INDICES

FT Ord 1,142.9 (+0.8)  
FT-A All Share 605.55 (+0.6%)  
FT-SE 100 1,438.1 (+0.5%)  
FT-A long gilt yield index:  
High coupon 10.28 (10.27)

Private health care: fading boom

Man in the news: Ian Paisley

Editorial comment: fumbling the growth torch

Appointments

Commodities

Economic Diary

FT Actuaries

Foreign exchanges

Gold Markets

HDI Co News

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Man in the

## OVERSEAS NEWS

### Swedish court boost for curbs on smoking

By Kevin Done, Nordic Editor, in Stockholm

**FANTI-SMOKING** campaigners have been given powerful new ammunition by the decision of Sweden's Insurance High Court to accept that passive smoking can cause lung cancer and can be classified as a cause of industrial injury.

The verdict has already led to renewed calls in Sweden for a ban on smoking in the workplace.

It has provided fresh grounds for non-smokers to refuse to accept jobs where they are exposed to cigarette smoke and Sweden's Factory Inspectorate is expecting a flood of complaints about unacceptable working environments.

For 13 years a Swedish woman worked in the drawing office of a Gothenburg engineering company. She was a non-smoker, but in 1980 she developed a form of lung cancer normally only found among smokers.

The woman claimed the illness was a form of industrial injury caused by the many years of passive smoking in an office where the majority of her colleagues were smokers.

Under Swedish social insurance rules a worker can claim a full wage as compensation for industrial injury, whereas sick pay amounts to only 90 per cent of his normal wage.

The regional social insurance offices in Gothenburg refused the woman's claim for industrial injury benefit, but her claim has now been upheld by the final court of appeal.

The court dismissed claims from the Swedish Social Insurance Board to the effect that the connection between lung cancer and passive smoking had not been scientifically proved. The court said it was sufficient that "probable causes" had been established.

According to the court the woman had been exposed to cigarette smoke for 21,000 hours at her workplace. Protests at the time to the management, her trade union and colleagues had little effect. The woman died in 1982, and the office itself has since imposed its own voluntary smoking ban.

A new investigation by Sweden's monopoly Tobacco Control and the Employee Protection Board shows that examination of a person's saliva is sufficient to show the density of smoke in the workplace.

Quentin Peel listens to the Commission's President give his views ahead of next week's EEC summit

### Britain becoming more European says Delors

**STILL BRISTLING** from a savage attack by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, believes that the most positive development from the whole exercise to reform the EEC is nonetheless that "Britain is becoming more European."

His surprise conclusion from the three-month-long effort to revise the Treaty of Rome—an operation to which Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, was strongly opposed—was given in an eve-of-summit interview in Brussels.

But Mr Delors, the former French Finance Minister, is pessimistic about the ultimate outcome of the EEC summit next Monday and Tuesday and the importance of the reform package which could emerge.

He also fears that the whole host of national exclusions sought by the member states on measures to speed up liberalisation of the internal market could abort the exercise.

However, in spite of the UK Government's continuing reservation on the whole exercise, he praised the British attitude.

"The British are becoming more and more European," he said. "It may still take them 40 years to get there, but you can

days, I agree," he said. "But at least we must make a qualitative leap forward. That is what politics is about. People who say: 'We are not in a hurry,' are people who don't want to do anything."

Mr Delors insisted that the Commission had not deliberately adopted a maximalist position, in order to force through substantial changes, but had sought to be modest from the outcome.

"We did not go for 100 per cent in order to achieve 100. We went for 50 per cent from the start. It looks as if we may only achieve 25 per cent," he said.

His gravest disappointments in the package are likely to be on technology—the text is a mess—and the exclusion of monetary questions at the insistence of Britain and West Germany.

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Mr Jacques Delors: "Europe is not built in two days."

no longer say that the British idea of Europe is the contrary to what the rest of us want. You used to be able to say that."

He spelled out his views on a range of issues.

• The Milan summit decision to reform the Treaty: "Perhaps it was a mistake. It certainly disappointed Mrs Thatcher. It

is true that the state of mind is ripe. Mrs Thatcher had prepared everything. She had made concessions. Then the unpredictable happened. That is why she was so annoyed."

• The minimum desirable outcome: "We need the political and economic conditions to relaunch Europe. Completion

of the single large market would be considerable stimulant. But an effort by each country is required. It cannot be done without a monetary dimension, either."

"We must also get away from this unanimity practice. I honestly believe that without reform of the Treaty (for more majority voting) we cannot make progress."

• The Luxembourg compromise: "If they started talking about the Luxembourg compromise, they would not have got anywhere. It is a theological debate between the federalists and the non-federalists. But we need a practical guarantee that the Luxembourg compromise will be less used."

• Monetary affairs: "My proposal was pitiable. It is too serious a quotation on which to try and have a revolution. It is an effort to put into the Treaty what already exists in practice. The text proposed was considered timid by everyone who saw it."

"But the British fell on us. Mr Lawson was literally furious. I have been attacked and insulted by half the German press. I don't know what to do. I am disoriented by it."

• Technology: "The European

companies, like Philips and Siemens, need serious people to talk to. They need to know what is happening. This does not help, because the text is a mess. As it stands, it will give us nothing. The industry needs reasons rather than diplomatic acrobatics."

• His own future in the Commission: "I have every intention of staying here for four years. I have no intention of returning to French politics. I am not obsessed with France and I am not a candidate for the Presidency of France. I must be unique in that. I am happy to be here."

"I am very angry (about the outcome of the conference), but my colleagues are calmer than me. Lord Cockfield told me not to leave the field of battle when the first shot was fired."

• Relations with France: "I am not popular with the French Government. Mitterrand says he approves of my monetary paper, but he did not tell me to do it. I will stop talking on January 5 (the beginning of the election campaign) about France."

"Up till then, I have only one thing to say to France: don't be ridiculous and destroy in two years what it has taken you 10 years to achieve."

• The scrapping of two tactical nuclear tasks in exchange for deploying 48 cruise missiles.

"We're not intending to disconnect the two," Mr Lubbers said, although his November 1 statement on the missile decision said the reduction of the tasks would be taken in consultation with Nato allies.

The scrapping of the two nuclear assignments did not mean that the Netherlands had become a second-rate member of the alliance, Mr Lubbers added.

The nuclear tasks reduction plan, which will be formally introduced in the Dutch parliament next week, is seen as an attempt to placate broad segments of the Dutch population opposed to deployment of the cruise missiles.

### Netherlands stands firm on ending N-tests

DUTCH Premier Ruud Lubbers said yesterday that his government would proceed with the scrapping of two tactical nuclear tasks in exchange for deploying 48 cruise missiles.

In a letter to the Dutch Government earlier this week, Nato secretary general Lord Carrington urged the Netherlands not to carry out plans to scrap two of its nuclear assignments, the nuclear capability of the F-16 fighter-bomber and nuclear depth charges.

"We will not change our decision, as was suggested in Lord Carrington's letter," Mr Lubbers said at his weekly press conference.

He noted that in his government's decision to accept deployment of the cruise missiles "both elements, deployment and abolition of the two nuclear tasks, were closely connected."

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### Defence budget rise

East Germany, obliged to meet the cost of basing Soviet short-range nuclear missiles on its soil, yesterday announced a 7.7 per cent increase in defence spending for 1986. Results reports from East Berlin.

Prime Minister Willi Stoph gave the figure at a twice-yearly meeting of the country's parliament, three days after Moscow published an economic plan which said Soviet defence spending would virtually remain at this year's level.

### Manila aircraft ban

THE PHILIPPINE Government yesterday banned Australian aircraft from landing at the US military installation Clark Air Base, north of Manila, in retaliation for "unfriendly, if not hostile statements" made by Australia's Foreign Minister, Mr Bill Hayden, against the Government of President Ferdinand Marcos, Samuel Seneca reports.

### Aquino verdict soon

The verdict on the murder of Mr Benigno Aquino, the former Philippines opposition leader, is to be finally handed down on Monday by a three-man civilian court after the Philippines Supreme Court lifted an earlier order stopping its promulgation. Samuel Seneca reports from Manila.

### Ferry strike ends

A FOUR-DAY strike by seamen, which halted all sailings by the Irish state-owned shipping line, B and I, was called off last night, after the company agreed to immediate negotiations on its controversial re-structuring plan, writes Hugh Carney of Dublin.

Arbitrators from the Irish labour court intervened in the dispute on Thursday and the leader of the Seamen's Union of Ireland, Mr William Stacey, agreed to lift the strike after meetings yesterday with B and I chief executive, Mr Alex Spain. The company's ferry services to the UK were expected to resume immediately.

### Oil prices raised

MEXICO and Egypt have both announced higher oil prices despite the slide this week in rates on the spot market where the buyer-seller rate for Brent Blend has fallen from \$37.50-30.85 on Monday to \$29.95-29.05 yesterday. Richard Johns reports.

Mexico has raised prices for its Isthmus crude from \$40.50 to \$37.45 for Far East purchasers and from \$26.75 to \$27.60 for Europe.

Egypt is increasing from December 1 its rates by 25 to 60 cents. Its key Suez Blend is going up from \$26.10 to \$26.70 per barrel.

FINANCIAL TIMES, US\$1.10, 1986, daily except Sunday, 1986, \$35.00 per annum. Second class postage paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER, 235 East 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010. FINANCIAL TIMES, 14 East 50th Street, New York, NY 10010.

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### EEC attempt to agree emissions standards suffers fresh setback

BY IVO DAWNAY IN BRUSSELS

TORTUOUS negotiations to establish Europe-wide standards on exhaust emissions from cars took three small steps forwards yesterday and a substantial leap backwards.

After more than 20 hours of talks, EEC environment ministers agreed on a series of detailed points concerning more flexible emissions levels for automatic transmission cars, postponed application of the norms for a new Perkins engine, currently under development, and postponed rules on the introduction of cars capable of running on lead-free petrol.

But a longstanding Danish blockage on the emissions standards agreed by the other nine member states in June remains in place. Furthermore, the Greeks have now added their insistence that Athens will only back the proposals if EEC cash is made available to combat

pollution in the Greek capital. Ministers had hoped to reach final agreement on the new standards before the year-end. It now looks unlikely that any conclusion will be reached before they meet again formally in March.

Denmark remains insistent that the controls due to begin coming into force from 1988 are inadequate. Copenhagen says the Community should adopt the more rigorous US requirements and that the timetable for introducing the measures is too relaxed.

However, Commission officials believe that now the outline of minimum requirements is at least accepted by most member states, failure formally to initial the plan should not disrupt the efforts of motor manufacturers to meet the new standards by the proposed deadline.

### Paris plans to reform post and telecom body

BY PAUL BETTS IN PARIS

THE FRENCH Government is planning a structural reform of the country's post and telecommunications authority (PTT) which could constitute the first step towards deregulation of post and telecommunications in France.

Mr Louis Mexandeau, the Socialist PTT minister, told a meeting of French telecommunications engineers that the idea was to define more clearly the different roles and responsibilities of the PTT and to make a firm distinction between the running of telephone and postal services, on the one hand, and industrial strategy and regulations on the other.

Mr Mexandeau has so far not disclosed either the extent or form of the proposed reform except to state the broad principle of the need to adapt the PTT to a new environment.

The reform could involve the splitting up of the authority into various new separate entities with different responsibil-

ties including basic telephone and postal services on one side and the new communications developments like videotex, the electronic telephone directory, new business communication services into a separate agency.

The reform, which could be discussed in Cabinet next week, is expected to be introduced with extreme caution on account of its major implications on one of the key sectors of the French economy.

It has already provoked considerable political controversy both inside and outside the PTT. Many right-wing opposition critics see the proposed reform as an attempt by the Socialist Government to undermine the right's own post and telecommunications deregulation plan if the right wins, as is widely expected, the general election next March. Other critics regard the proposed reform as ill-timed because it will inevitably be altered if the opposition wins next year.

The area has about 7,000 unemployed farm hands. With the reform plan, the amount of work for day labourers is expected to increase by half.

The new co-operatives' performance will be reviewed after five years, and their contracts can be rescinded.

In addition, 44 farms are ordered to carry out improvements and 27 others subjected to levies for under-use of the land.

### Andalucia farm reform plan blocked

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN NEW YORK

A RENEWED car sales incentive battle is looming in the US following a decision by Chrysler, the third largest domestic vehicle manufacturer, to launch a marketing programme offering loans at 8.5 per cent or \$1,000 (£600) rebates on some models.

Neither General Motors nor Ford, the two larger producers, has so far responded to the Chrysler plan, but analysts expect them both to introduce similar schemes within the next few days.

All three of the American companies have heavy production schedules at present but have faced in the last two months with a severe decline in sales as imports increased their share of the market from 24 to 30 per cent. In the 10-day sales period of mid-November, shipments of new November, shipments of new

Decreases affecting parts of Seville and Cordoba Provinces are expected in the next few weeks. The takeovers at Antequera, a predominantly mountainous region, involve almost 6,000 hectares, including an estate belonging to the Marquis of Cañete, with 42 tenant farmers and described by a local Communist Party leader as "one of the last feudal bastions of Andalucia." Two of the estates were listed as being without agricultural use.

Actual ownership of the land remains unchanged. The owners affected are entitled to rent and to return of their farms after 12 years, on condition that they pay for the improvements made in the interim. They will also have to continue paying property tax.

The figures compiled so far do not take account of two disasters this month which will add a significant amount to the total—Hurricane KATE, which hit the Gulf states, and a tornado which has torn through

### Car sales incentives battle looms in US

American car sales incentive battle is looming in the US following a decision by Chrysler, the third largest domestic vehicle manufacturer, to launch a marketing programme offering loans at 8.5 per cent or \$1,000 (£600) rebates on some models.

Sales difficulties for US manufacturers were widely predicted following an aggressive two-month spell of low financing or price rebates in August and September. These incentives generated record sales for the US manufacturers, but appear to have pulled forward some purchases that customers were planning later in the year. The incentives also made present prices look exceptionally high, particularly since many models were revamped in October and reintroduced at higher sticker prices.

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# Government decides one body should regulate City

By PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

**THE GOVERNMENT** has decided in favour of one supervisory body, rather than two, for the regulation of City financial markets.

This is likely to be announced in the middle of December, about the time the Financial Services Bill will set out a new regulatory framework.

Trade and industry ministers, however, will make clear that they have an open mind about the scope of the regulatory regime and possible amendments.

The decision in favour of merging the Securities and Investments Board, responsible for a variety of investments, and Marketing of Investments Board regulating life assurance unit trusts and similar pre-packaged investments, was foreseen at the Conservative party conference and is in line with the opinion of many City organisations as well as Conservative MPs.

Ministers have been made aware of public and political concern about recent events in the City, particularly the alleged

fraud in the Lloyd's insurance market and at Johnson Matthey Bankers.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Trade and Industry Secretary, and Mr Michael Howard, the Under Secretary for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, each appointed three months ago, see no reason to alter the basic structure for self-regulation set out in last January's white paper on investor protection.

They have made clear, however, that parts of the bill should not be regarded as sacrosanct.

In particular, the minister will be prepared to consider a strengthening of the regulatory powers and the possible inclusion of the Lloyd's insurance market within the scope of the Bill.

While ministers see no need to update the 1982 Lloyd's Act, they believe the council of Lloyd's needs to demonstrate continuing toughness towards wrongdoers.

Although the Government does not want to become involved in the dispute between Mr Peter Miller, chairman of

## Investment income tax change aids widows

By Clive Weirman

**THE LARGEST** group to benefit from the abolition of the investment income surcharge in last year's Budget were widows and other single women with taxable incomes below £13,000, according to figures published yesterday.

The figures, included in the Inland Revenue's survey of personal incomes, show that, in the fiscal year 1982-83, 314,000 taxpayers were liable to the 15 per cent surcharge because their investment incomes had exceeded the threshold of £6,250.

It has also been pointed out that the new DTI team has not chosen fundamentally to review the forthcoming bill as prepared by its predecessors.

Although ministers accept the framework agreed before they took over, they are prepared to be flexible about the details.

The second reading of the bill is expected in mid-January after the end of the Christmas recess.

Jason Crisp on optimism at a troubled computer company

## Sinclair's program for recovery



BILL JEFFREY: Sinclair's managing director

**THERE IS** remarkable optimism at Sinclair Research, considering that the company was on the verge of collapse in the summer. The size of its problems are shown in the report and accounts received by shareholders yesterday, some 10 weeks later than usual.

The bloodbath in the home computer industry—and incidentally semiconductors—has cost Sinclair Research £22.8m in exceptional items, mainly stock write-downs. As a result, a modest pre-tax profit of £4.5m has been turned into an £8.3m loss which is alleviated only by a £7.2m tax credit.

But with most of the bad news apparently out of the way, Sir Clive Sinclair, founder and chairman, and Mr Bill Jeffrey, the new managing director who joined from Mars Electronics, both exude a renewed confidence.

Earlier this week, they spent

the day with the company's financial advisors N. M. Rothschild discussing how to raise £10m to restore working capital and enable the company to go ahead with a number of product launches next year.

Sinclair's problems originated last year when the industry was highly optimistic that the home computer boom would continue. But the British public only bought 1.4m units, significantly lower than the previous year.

Sir Clive comments in his chairman's report: "The retail trade, over-reacting to the rising market, and the supply shortages experienced in the two

preceding years, bought 1.8m machines. The pattern was the same in all major markets last year, and the result was a virtually complete cessation of deliveries to retailers in the first three months of 1985."

Sir Clive does not say in his report that Sinclair Research, along with its rival Acorn Computers, is also already overestimated demand. The balance sheet for the year to March 3 shows stocks of £21.5m after making write-downs of £17.5m. Given that there were no sales in the first three months of

1985, one can estimate that Sinclair ended the peak Christmas selling season with five months' stock on its hands, on the basis of past demand.

Since the market has fallen this year and the business is so seasonal, the company probably will not get all its stocks right until about March 1986. "We're eating into stocks quite dramatically now," said Mr Jeffrey. The company's most important product, the Spectrum home computer has been selling so well that manufacturing has been restarted.

The stock problems caused a cash flow crisis this summer, which meant it had to be rescued by its main creditors, Thorn EMI, AB Electronics, Barclays Bank and Citibank. It later led to an abortive £2m rescue bid by Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of the Mirror Group of newspapers.

But when Mr Maxwell abandoned Sir Clive in August, the company had just clinched a £10m deal with Dixons which enabled it to limp on unaided. There have been a number of changes at Sinclair Research since the crisis, aimed at converting a haphazardly-run company into a more professionally managed organisation. Sales and marketing have been reorganised and the concept of "brand management" introduced. The already-small staff of 120 has been cut and the board re-organised and sharply reduced in size. New professional managers have joined to beef

up quality control, engineering and financial systems.

Assuming the company succeeds in raising the £10m it needs, it plans to launch new products next year. One of the main strategies is to preserve its position as the dominant supplier in the UK home computer market. Next year should be better for Sinclair.

Sinclair will also move towards the business market with a portable computer—known as Pandora—which Sir Clive promises for late next year.

The Pandora will have a 12 inch flat screen cathode ray tube, like the much smaller one used in the Sinclair pocket TV. "It will also not cost a penny more than the equivalent desktop machine," said Sir Clive.

Sir Clive admitted yesterday that his hope that the pocket TV might become as popular as the transistor radio was not realised.

It has clearly been an exceptionally difficult year for Sir Clive who has also seen a substantial part of his personal fortune disappear with the collapse of his other company, Sinclair Vehicles. Even his salary at Sinclair Research has been cut from £27,000 to £23,000.

Clearly, the company will be rather different, both in terms of management and size. Sir Clive concentrates on the technology, leaving company management to Mr Jeffrey. Turnover will, it is clear, be substantially down on the £102.8m achieved last year.

## Channel link plans clarified

By Andrew Taylor

**SOME OF** the uncertainty surrounding plans to build a rail tunnel to France, as part of a cross-Chunnel fixed link, was removed yesterday as two of the contenders to build the link announced final details of their plans.

The two groups, Channel Expressway and EuroRoute, had each proposed two versions of a rail tunnel as well as separate road schemes which they are offering.

Transport department officials who jointly with French officials are assessing the proposals had effectively given the groups until yesterday to make clear which of the rail schemes they are supporting.

EuroRoute is now opting for a separate rail tunnel (initially providing single-track working only) which would open at the same time as a road scheme involving bridges, artificial islands and a mid-Channel 21km road tunnel. EuroRoute has also offered a twin-bore rail tunnel which would open 18 months after the road crossing was completed.

Channel Expressway has opted for a separate rail tunnel to run alongside a twin-bore road/tunnel carrying two lanes of motorway in each direction.

It had originally proposed to have the rail track embedded in the motorway. Road traffic would have been halted while trains ran through.

The two groups have been experiencing difficulties in negotiating terms with British Rail and to a lesser extent with SNCF, the French state-owned railway. It was in a bid to resolve some of these problems that both groups had submitted alternative versions of their rail tunnels.

Four schemes have been submitted to the British and French governments which expect to announce by the end of January which of these, if any, will be allowed to proceed.

## Lingerie producer calls in receiver

By ANTHONY MORETON

**BERLET (UK)**, a leading lingerie producer, called in the receivers yesterday afternoon after County Bank, one of its main shareholders, demanded immediate repayment of a £685,000 loan.

The move came just 16 weeks after a financial reconstruction of the company had been masterminded by the Welsh Development Agency and backed by four local authorities in South Wales.

Mr David Pinckney, chairman, said last night that had he or the other directors been aware that County Bank would demand repayment of the loan at short notice they "would not have permitted the refinancing package to have been put in place."

County Bank refused to be drawn on the decision beyond saying that "at the request of the company" it had appointed Cork Gully as receiver. "We do not feel it is appropriate to keep the company as a going concern."

It is understood County Bank approached the company on November 21 and asked for repayment of the loan within 90 minutes, but on appeal it gave the company a week to raise the money.

## GEC offshoot restructures

By NICK GARNETT, NORTHERN CORRESPONDENT

**FURTHER** decline in demand for electrical power transmission equipment has forced GEC Switchgear to restructure its business with the loss of about 300 jobs.

The company said yesterday some manufacturing is being transferred to its plants at Stafford and nearby Hixon from Trafford Park, near Manchester.

There will be smaller though unspecified job losses at Stafford.

The company, which employs 1,670, said it was incurring substantial trading losses and its manufacturing facilities were too large and costly for existing and anticipated orders. Changes were necessary to safeguard the future of the business and the job security of the majority of employees.

The restructuring reflects shrinking requirements from the Central Electricity Generating Board and to a weak level of export orders.

Production at the factory will be phased out during the next 12 months and transferred to the firm's main complex at Tunstall, Stoke.

## Details given for probe into BSC efficiency

By Ian Rodger

**THE MONOPOLIES** and Mergers Commission has published the terms of reference for its investigation into the efficiency of the British Steel Corporation.

The investigation, which is to be completed in six months, is part of a programme of studies of the efficiency of nationalised industries launched by the Government a year ago.

So far, only one such investigation, on the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board, has been completed. In a report published last month the commission made 57 recommendations to ensure more efficient control of the board, including the setting of cost control targets.

The proceeds will be given to the fund without any deduction for expenses and the costs of the collection will be met by the banks, lawyers, printers and trustee company concerned.

Mr Timothy Phipps, the fund's deputy director general, said yesterday that the bulk of the

money would go to Sudan

where the fund is spending

about £1m per month.

Princess Anne, the president

## Bankers launch Bond Aid charity plan

BY MAGGIE URRY

**CITY BANKERS** have launched an appeal to the financial community for the Save the Children Fund. All types of financial businesses, banks, stockbrokers, insurance companies, building societies, both UK and foreign-owned, will be asked to give money and it is hoped that millions of dollars will be raised.

The organisers want to reach institutions rather than individuals. "We are all well aware of the natural catastrophes which the world has suffered recently and the generous contributions that have been made by people from all over the world."

"This will be the international financial community's opportunity to show their concern and good will," they said. So far most donations for such appeals have come only from individuals.

The appeal will be in the form of Bond Aid Certificates to be sold in denominations of \$5,000 (£3,300), \$10,000, \$20,000 and \$30,000. Those who donate money will receive a certificate showing how much they gave

and their names will be published in a newspaper advertisement.

Hundreds of companies will be invited to "buy" the certificates with the appeals going to the top people in each business. The organisers started to send telegrams out last night. They decided to put a figure on the amount they hope will be raised but expect to receive gifts of millions of dollars.

The appeal is being launched in a similar way to Eurobond issues to "lighten the approach," though the originators want to bring in a much wider range of people than just bond dealers. The date set for payments to be made into the Save the Children Fund bank account at National Westminster Bank is December 19, 1985. The fund's telephone number is 01-703 5400.

## Call for vote system referendum

By Margaret van Harten, Political Correspondent

**DR DAVID OWEN**, leader of the Social Democratic Party, called last night for a referendum on proportional representation.

Speaking to the Peal Society in Tamworth, Staffs, he said: "electoral reform was a people's issue," not one for politicians, and there could be little doubt that the people wanted it.

A Gallup Poll this month indicated that 59 per cent of people supported proportional representation and about 50 per cent felt there should be a referendum on electoral reform, whether or not the Alliance, campaigning on the issue, won enough support to force it through Parliament.

The consistent level of public support for proportional representation is very heartening, as well as the fact that a majority see this as an essential reform and prerequisite for Britain's economic and political recovery," he added.

Dr Owen said that to campaign for a referendum on proportional representation was to demonstrate a confidence in the judgment of the British people.

"Any political party that refused the request for a referendum would have some difficulty explaining their refusal at the subsequent and early second General Election."

"It would be those who had refused who would be on the defensive. It would be they who would be seen as being fearful of the result. It would be they who were afraid to trust the people."

A referendum confined to constitutional issues could, he said, have a blinding quality that would otherwise not be possible without a written constitution.

A referendum could also be used to inhibit constitutional change. The result of the Scottish devolution referendum was often cited by the advocates of proportional representation as a warning against calling a referendum about introducing the change.



"Hi-I'm your user friendly candidate-this floppy disk will explain my program..."

prepared on policy issues which are sent out in a variety of combinations in signed letters to voters depending on the questions raised. These people are selected on the basis of queries sent in, canvas returns and a limited use of Acorn (A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods) data.

Labour has made a more modest use of word processors, concentrating on removals. The electoral register next Thursday will be 14 months old and roughly a third of the electorate have moved.

With the help of party workers and friendly postmen, a sizeable proportion of these people have been identified and sent a personal letter offering help to vote.

Technology does not, however, remove the need for local activists. Canvassers are still required to collect data and deliver personal letters since the cost of postal charges is high.

The candidates personally sign their letters rather than rely, as in the US, on facsimile signatures. Traditional methods of campaigning such as election addresses, special newspapers and community newsletters are being retained.

Mr David Hughes, Labour's national agent, says computers do the same things as people but more efficiently and release those people for canvassing and other work.

Similarly, Mr John Lacy, the Tory director of campaigning, who is also in Newcastle, refers to a mixture of approaches.

Mr Alec McGivern, the SDP's by-election specialist, believes computers will enable his party to carry out existing activities, such as collecting canvas returns, more efficiently and speedily while facilitating new targeted methods such as direct mail.

Does all this activity make any difference?

Mr Andrew Ellis, the Liberals' acting secretary general, is cautious about the new technology as a help. He sees it as one factor among many, and believes the Liberals may have won Brecon without this technological advantage.

While party managers have found ways round limits on local campaign spending in Britain, a restriction of about £4,500 a candidate in each constituency ensures the face of British elections, though changing, will still be recognisable for some time.

## Libya says Egyptian troops ready for combat

By Our Middle East Staff  
LIBYA accused Egypt yesterday of having completed preparations for a military attack on its territory. The Libyan news agency Jana said the troops which Egypt had massed on the border during the past few days were now in a state of combat readiness.

It claimed the Egyptian people had been deluded into believing that the military preparations had been made in order to repel a threatened attack by Libya.

Egypt has accused Libya of responsibility for the hijacking of one of its civil airliners last weekend. Nearly 80 people died when Egyptian commandos stormed the aircraft after it had landed in Malta.

Mr Ezzat Abd-el-Meguid, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, said in Brussels yesterday that his country had stepped up border security but denied that it was planning to attack Libya.

Officials in Cairo said investigations were continuing into the extent of Libyan involvement in the aircraft hijacking. President Hosni Mubarak has said that it was Egypt's policy to strike at all forms of terrorism.

Libya has denied that it had any hand in the hijack but warned that if attacked it would deliver a "decisive blow" at Egypt.

## Israeli apology for spy scandal

By Walter Ellis in Tel Aviv

MR DAVID LEVY, Israel's Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday that Israel had apologised to the US in connection with the Pollard spy scandal and was making efforts to investigate the matter and prevent any recurrence of such activity.

Earlier, Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, had promised the US a report on the Pollard affair within a matter of days together with any documents that may have been unlawfully acquired.

Mr Levy, a leading member of the right wing Likud Bloc in the Cabinet, called on the US to present a more balanced picture of the affair and to bring it to a conclusion. The scandal, he said, did not in any way harm US interests or security.

Earlier this month, Mr Jonathan Pollard, an employee of US Naval Intelligence, was arrested outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington and charged with passing secrets in return for cash. He is said to have admitted espionage and is now awaiting trial.

## South Africa in move to step up border security

By ANTHONY ROBINSON IN JOHANNESBURG, PATTI WALDMEIR IN LUSAKA AND TONY HAWKINS IN HARARE

SOUTH AFRICA yesterday announced plans to strengthen border security. The move coincided with a warning from the African National Congress (ANC) that this week's land mine blasts and a rocket attack were part of "a generalised escalation of... the military struggle."

Mr Louis le Grande, Minister of Law and Order, said police on the border would be replaced by soldiers. The decision follows a spate of landmine explosions close to the borders with Zimbabwe and Botswana, and a rocket attack against the Sasol oil-from-coal plants at Secunda.

The ANC office in Lusaka, Zambia, yesterday claimed responsibility for the rocket attack and said that three members of the organisation's military wing were killed by South African forces. In a statement yesterday the ANC said that the rocket attack and landmine incidents were "a generalised escalation of both the political and military struggle against the South African racist regime."

The South African Government accused the ANC of a police passing out parade in Pretoria, said that withdrawing police from the borders would relieve pressure on the forces caused by continuing township unrest.

Over 1,000 policemen yesterday mounted a search operation in the Cape Town squatter camp of Crossroads, in which one black man was killed by police.

● Mr Chester Crocker, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, stopped over in Johannesburg yesterday on route for Europe after two days of talks in Lusaka.

## Trade unions to launch 'super-federation'

BY OUR JOHANNESBURG CORRESPONDENT

A MAJOR new force on the South African labour scene will emerge this weekend in Durban when 33 trade unions with 180,000 signed-up members, and the Azanian Confederation of Trade Unions (AZACTU) with 70,000,

One of the oldest union federations, the 340,000-strong Trade Union Council of South Africa (TUCSA) also remains outside the new union umbrella, as does the right-wing white South African Confederation of Labour (SACL).

TUCSA has seen its membership dwindle in recent years as unions with increasing numbers of militant black members have disaffiliated in favour of the rising black unions which emerged following the Government's acceptance of the Wiehahn Commission findings.

A key role in the unity negotiations has been played by Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the National Union of Miners (NUM).

Mr Ramaphosa is expected to be elected president of the new federation this weekend.

These are the Council of

## Contractors lay off 300 after IRA threat

By Our Belfast Correspondent

ABOUT 300 building workers

were laid off in Northern Ireland last night, when three contractors were forced by IRA threats to withdraw from contracts for the security forces.

The trade unions said they believed that the death threats against directors and managers of building companies might lead to up to 1,000 job losses.

The Government said it was

an act of economic sabotage.

The contracts involved the building of police stations and the upgrading of roads. Earlier this week the IRA gave the companies seven days to terminate the contracts.

The companies were named by the IRA but asked not to be identified.

Yesterday they began to remove plant and equipment from the sites and said work would stop immediately.

Mr Nicholas Scott, under-secretary at the Northern Ireland Office, said the companies were providing vitalally needed jobs. The IRA threats showed a cynical disregard for the livelihoods of hundreds of working people and their families.

He said: "Surely even Provisional Sinn Fein [IRA's political wing] which claims concern for working people should join the overwhelming majority who utterly condemn such a despicable act of economic sabotage."

Mr Terry Corbin, Northern Ireland officer of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, said other businesses were likely to pull out of contracts for security forces. Sub-contractors and suppliers would also be affected.

He said: "Up to 1,000 jobs are involved. We hope the companies will do their best to redeploy their workers but at this time of the year prospects for the industry are not good and the chances of alternative work are slim."

## Takeover bids 'menace bank trust funds'

By Clive Wolman

THE "apparently impregnable City financial establishment is breaking down" with merchant banks seeing their investment trusts threatened by take overs and liquidation Laing & Crichton, the stockbroking firm, says in a review published today.

The broker's 1985 review of investment trust companies identifies as a turning point the hostile take-over bid in June for British American and General Trust.

The trust, which was strongly defended by its manager, Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank succumbed to a £63m bid from Shires Investment, a trust one-sixth of its size. Laing & Crichton acted as adviser to Shires, which is managed by Stanecastle Assets, a new Scottish company.

In a summary of the implications of the acquisition, the Laing & Crichton review, which is for private circulation, says: "Trusts managed by 'establishment' merchant banks are now under corporate activity pressure."

"The acquisition of British American and General has proved it to be possible (with careful forethought) to activate a merchant bank managed trust and there are a number of other companies which look somewhat vulnerable."

According to Laing & Crichton estimates, merchant banks manage about £2.6bn of investment trust assets. The largest fund manager is Robert Fleming with £1.1bn of trust assets (excluding those of its subsidiary, Save & Prosper).

The Scots missed the opportunity to benefit from the growth of the unit trust and unit-linked life assurance industry in the 1980s and 1970s, the review concludes. However, they are now making up for lost ground by aggressively seeking pension fund management contracts, in the UK, US and elsewhere.

In the investment trust sector, over the last five years, 15 companies have been set up in Scotland with a total asset value of £173m compared with nine new trusts in England with an asset value of £191m.

The total value of investment trust assets managed in Scotland is about £5.4bn compared with total UK trust assets of £17.2bn. Forty investment trusts with assets of £4bn are managed in Edinburgh. 10 are managed in Glasgow and 2 in Dundee.

## Date set for NHS spectacle vouchers

Financial Times Reporter

NATIONAL HEALTH Service spectacles will be abolished from next July, the Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday.

Despite the serious effect of the damage, however, most were quick to dismiss the action as that of a "junkie fringe."

The plan for privatising the huge JNR system, as proposed by the Government this summer, call for eliminating as many as 83,000 JNR workers over three years beginning in 1987.

The changes are designed to open up the optical market to competition and bring down the price of spectacles.

John Hunt on the rival camps lobbying over shopping hours

## Sunday trading battle lines drawn

PEERS HAVE been bombarded with publicity this week as the opposing groups in the battle over Sunday trading lobby for support in the crucial vote on the Shops Bill in the House of Lords on Monday.

Spearheading opposition to the legislation, which would sweep away all limitations on trading hours in England and Wales, are the 24 bishops and the other three churchmen. They will get the support of most Labour peers, who are strongly influenced by the views of the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers and of the Co-op movement, which oppose the Bill.

The bishops can also expect the backing of some Conservative peers who are prepared to defect to the Government unless the other parties, the Tories will be putting on a strict whip for the second reading debate.

Lord "Bertie" Denham, Government Chief Whip in the Lords, will muster support by putting out one of his famous circulars to bring in the Tory backbenchers.

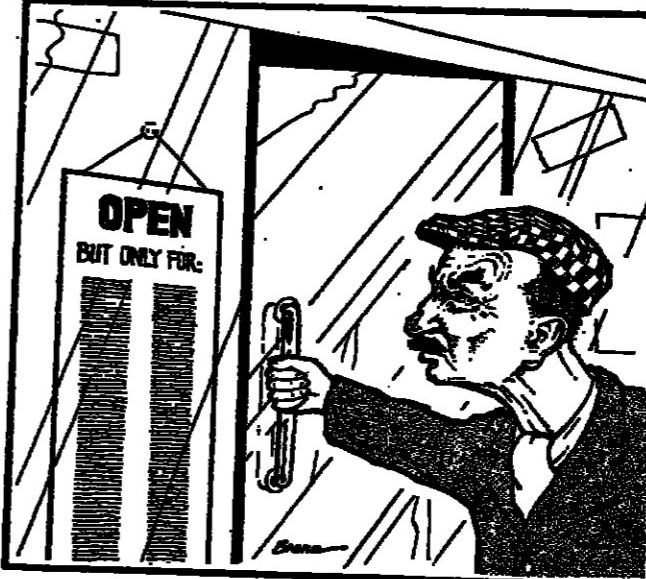
The balance of forces seems to be equally divided, although some shrewd observers think the Government will win narrowly.

But the situation is not clear cut, and there are many eddies and cross-currents of opinion.

Retailers are divided, and the Retail Consortium has left companies to make up their own minds. Those in favour of the bill have formed the Open Shop Organisation, which includes Woolworths, Habitat-Mothercare, Quesway, MPF, W. H. Smith and the DIY Federation.

Against the legislation are some big groups such as Boots and John Lewis, and the National Chamber of Trade, which represents smaller retailers.

Opposition is centred around an amendment which has been put down by the Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, Bishop of Birmingham, conceding that shop hours should be rationalised, but opposing the complete deregulation of hours contained



The tactics against the Bill are being co-ordinated by Lord Graham of Edmonton, a former Labour Co-op MP who was a whip in the Commons. He has worked in close liaison with USDAW the Co-op and the Jubilee Centre, an Anglican organisation.

Although they are opposed to complete deregulation, they would be prepared to see modification of the law. They suggest a revised list of goods that could be sold, simpler enforcement procedures and special provision for holiday resorts and ethnic minorities.

They will get formidable support from peers like Viscount Pimperny, formerly George Thomas the Speaker of the Commons, who is a Methodist.

The bishops can also claim the blessing of Dr Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, who told the General Synod of the Church of England: "I hope that we can come up with a solution that will give appropriate protection to our Sunday and so hollow an

ancient tradition which we must protect from a revolutionary axe."

On the other hand some influential Labour peers favour the Bill and this is one reason why Labour has allowed a free vote.

Lord Harmar-Nichols (C), who has introduced several successful private Members' Bills on the subject, is taking a leading role in muster support for the Bill.

He does not believe that modifications to the present law would be practicable. The way ahead, he says, is to sweep aside the regulations, and modifications could be made at a later date.

His opponents argue that foreign experience shows that, once deregulation occurs, it is impossible to reintroduce any form of control, however minor.

The Consumers Association is backing the Bill. Mrs Rachel Waterhouse, its chairman, says the present laws are "antidemocratic."

Consumers in England and shop Wales want the right to shop when they and the shops want to "do business," she says. "They are voting for that with their feet."

In a shrewd move to get support for the legislation, the Government has chosen Baroness Trumpington, Under-Secretary for Health and Social Security to wind up the debate. She introduced a private members' Bill in 1982 to abolish restrictions on shop hours. It was given an unopposed second reading in the Lords but failed through lack of time in the Commons.

The Social Democrats and Liberals are allowing their members to go their individual ways, and the decisive factor on Monday could be the 200 peers on the cross benches.

Whatever happens it looks like being another big occasion in Their Lordships' House. Over 30 peers have put their names down to speak, and it is anticipated that the final number will be 40.

## Estimates of pension fund surpluses challenged

BY ERIC SHORT

RECENT claims that pension funds have surpluses running into several billions of pounds grossly overstate their financial position.

Work carried out by the firm's partners indicates that the surplus of pension scheme assets over liabilities is about 5 per cent. This would indicate the total surplus of pension funds to be less than £15bn.

Watson considers the London Business School's estimate of a £50bn surplus to be particularly exaggerated.

The firm advises pension schemes in the UK whose assets

total £50bn—about one-third of the funds of self-administered pension schemes.

Watson claims that, although experience varies widely between schemes, the overall financial effect was nearly neutral.

Many companies gave generous benefits to employees who were made redundant and where redundancy occurred taking contribution holidays or reductions.

With such action, the benefit to the Treasury would be far less than indicated by the LBS.

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However often you've heard said that it's never too early to start a pension scheme, the fact remains:

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between unit-linked and with profit — or even a combination of the two.

Talk to your broker or financial adviser about Multipension or contact our Marketing Information Services on 0949 33377. But do it soon.

You may be toiling in the hills and valleys now. But that's the time to lay plans for sunlit uplands ahead.



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DISTILLERS

# DISTILLERS



DISTILLERS

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It's our belief Johnnie Walker could have given the likes of Napoleon and Genghis Khan a few hints on how to win friends and influence people.

After all, our man is a household name all round the world these days.

And he's an ambassador for a group which is the largest exporter of Scotch whisky in the world; marketeers of Dewar's White Label, America's most popular Scotch, and Gordon's the world's best selling quality gin.

Indeed, as the world's market leader, Johnnie Walker Red Label is in the vanguard of a cohort of unique brands which, in 1984/5 alone, earned us \$473 million in exports, bringing benefits to Scotland in the process.

Successful brands don't develop by accident; our achievement reflects the quality of our people. It takes flair, determination and sound marketing to build a leading international brand, just as it takes wisdom and leadership to create an empire.

And Johnnie Walker has all that in good measure. Long may he keep going strong.

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The Antiquary · John Begg · Black & White · Buchanan's · Cardhu Highland Malt · Claymore · Crawford's Special Reserve · Dewar's White Label · Dimple · Haig  
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(These are just some of our leading international brands)



## THE GLENLIVET - DENIED BY THE KING

In the early 1800's, denying the existence of distilleries was a national Scottish pastime.

Oh, they were there, alright. But all strictly illegal. You see, savage taxes imposed by the Philistines of Westminster made distilling the national beverage well nigh impossible.

Tax evasion became the only honourable course. The canny Highlanders took to the hills and the glens.

A whole industry flourished. But it was completely underground. Excisemen, or gaugers, marched North, with orders to stamp it out.

### The Artful Dodgers.

But it proved a hopeless task. All measures to deter the distillers were met with ridicule.

Even a £5 reward for the discovery of a distilling pipe (or copper "worm") did nothing to halt the flow of whisky. In fact it was a boon for the whisky makers.

When a "worm" was worn out, the distiller would miraculously "find" it, hand it over to the authorities, claim his reward and promptly purchase a new one!

Such was the Highlanders' contempt for the law that it was not even considered a disgrace to be imprisoned for illicit distilling.

Indeed, in Dingwall Gaol offenders were treated in the mildest possible way, even allowed out on Sundays and special occasions and "honourably returned".

One approached with the remarkable proposition that they set up a still together in the gaol!

But out of this lawlessness came greatness.

The illicit dram was magnificent.

The Reverend Thomas Guthrie was a boy in 1818 and he recalled that "everybody, with few exceptions, drank what was in reality illicit whisky - far superior to that made under the eye of the Excise - lords, lairds, members of Parliament and ministers of the gospel and everybody else."

And the finest dram of them all was The Glenlivet.

### The Sassenach Connection.

The Glenlivet distillery was started by one John Gow Alias Smith.

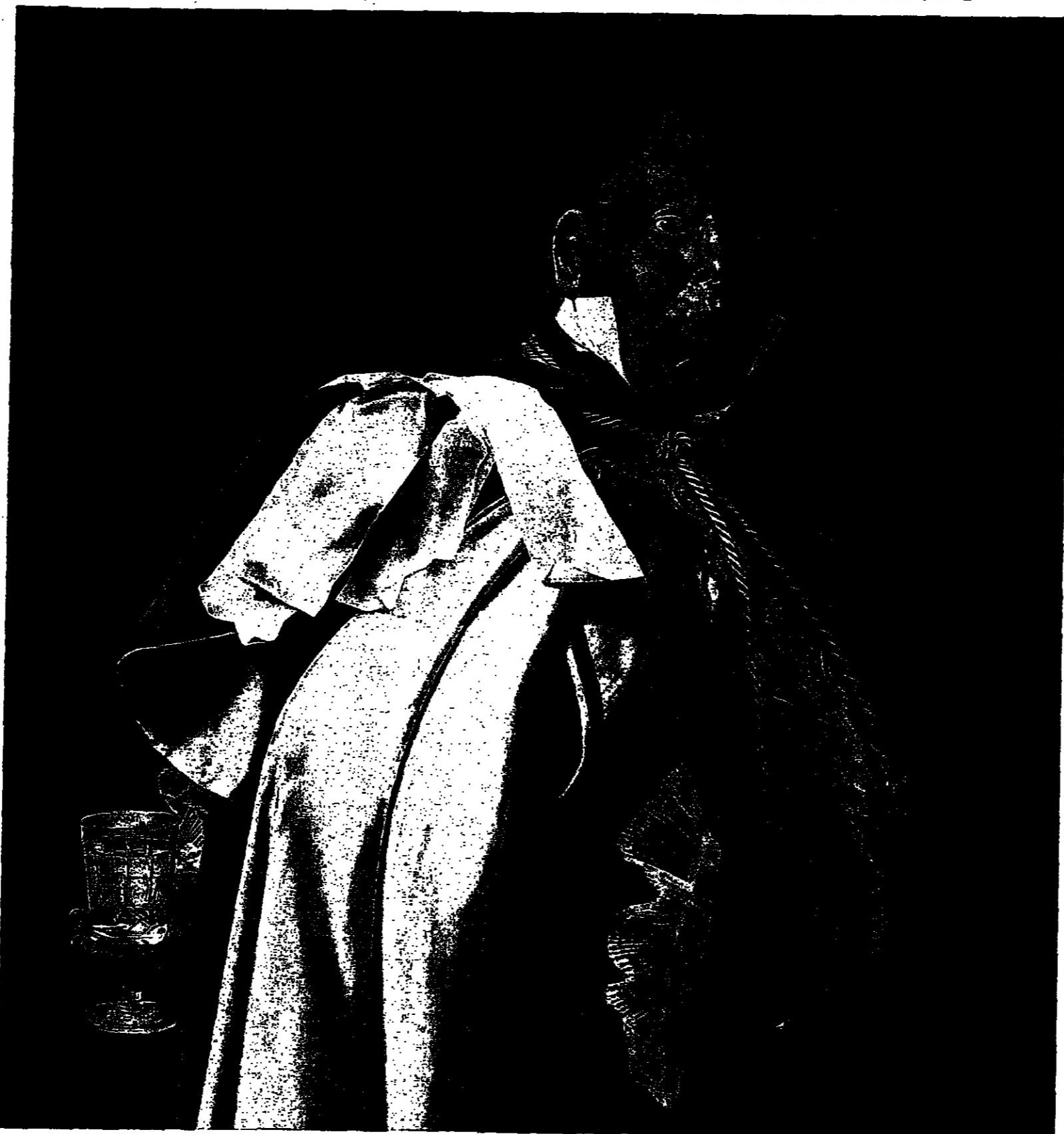
Bit of a mystery; John Gow. Indeed he had very little option.

Having fought and lost with Bonnie Prince Charlie, he had to flee with his family in 1746 to the remote glen of the river Livet.

And to baffle the English soldiers, he changed his name from the gaelic Gow to Smith.

This is why such a Sassenach name as Smith appears on the bottle of Scotland's most venerated whisky:

There in the glen John Smith, ex-Gow, settled in the precise spot where the water and the peat were the best in all Scotland for making



# "Glenlivet Distillery? What Glenlivet Distillery?"

malt whisky. This mysterious man had stumbled upon a mysterious well, Josie's Well.

It's the water from this well that makes The Glenlivet magical. We can't tell you why. There is no explanation.

And there is no other well that performs the same magic.

By the time John Smith's grandson George inherited the still in 1817, the fame of The Glenlivet

had spread far and wide.

"It is worth all the wines of France" opined the Doctor in Sir Walter Scott's St. Ronan's Well, "and more cordial to the system besides."

### His Majesty's Pleasure.

The Glenlivet that George Smith made even flowed in the corridors of power.

In 1822 King George IV paid an official visit to Edinburgh and

Elizabeth Grant, an MP's daughter, wrote about it in her

memoirs: "One incident connected with this time made me very

cross. Lord Coryngham, the Chamberlain, was looking everywhere for the pure Glenlivet whisky: the King drank nothing else.

My father sent word to me - I was the cellarar - to empty my pet bin, where whisky was long in the wood, mild as milk and the true contraband goût in it."

Such a princely potion couldn't stay illegal much longer. It was unthinkable that the King should ever have to deny that his greatest pleasure didn't actually exist!

Luckily, back at the House of Lords, commonsense was about to break out, under the influence of George Smith's landlord, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon.

In 1823, their Lordships passed an act which made distilling a commercial proposition.

And the first man to take out a licence was our own George Smith.

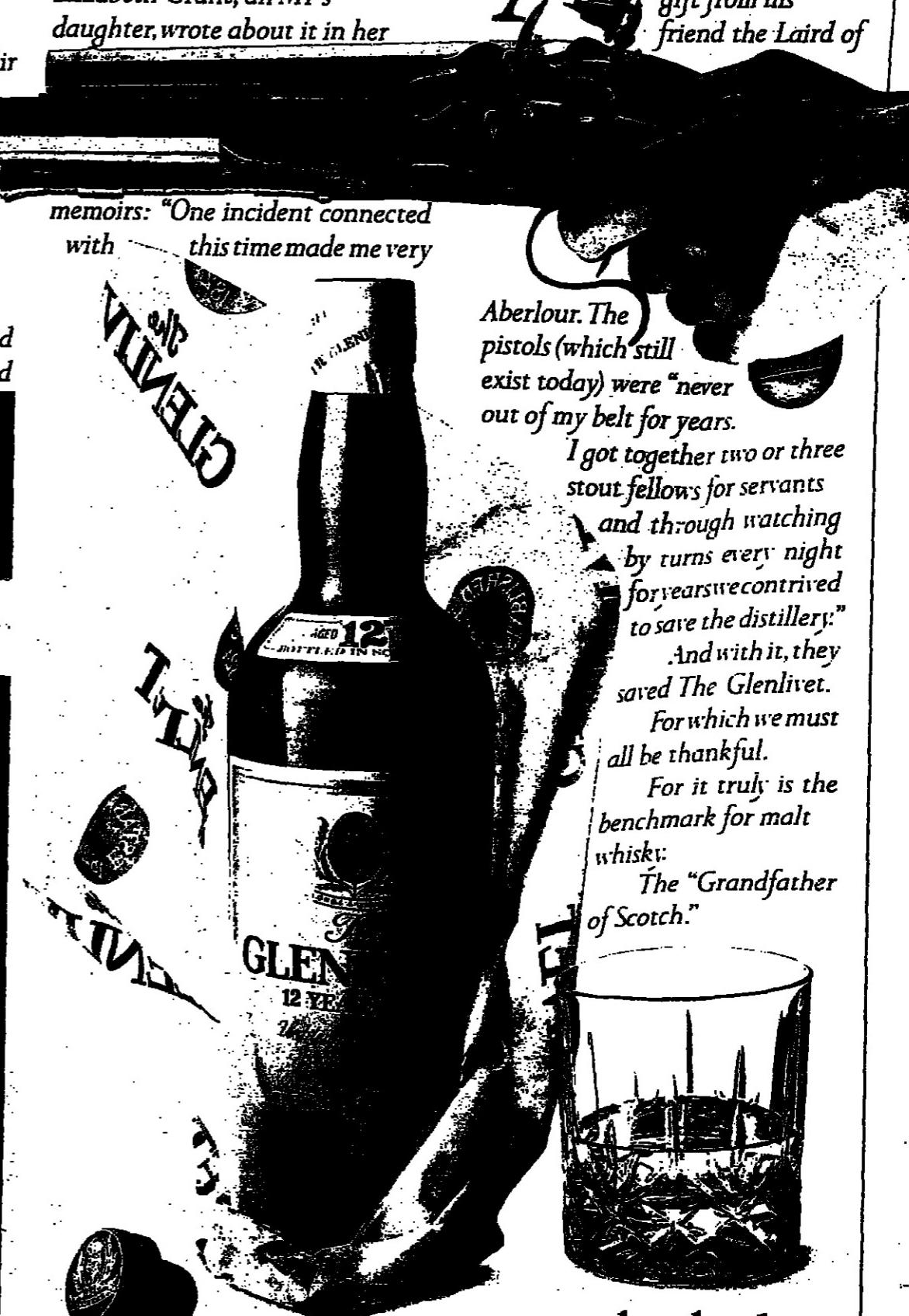
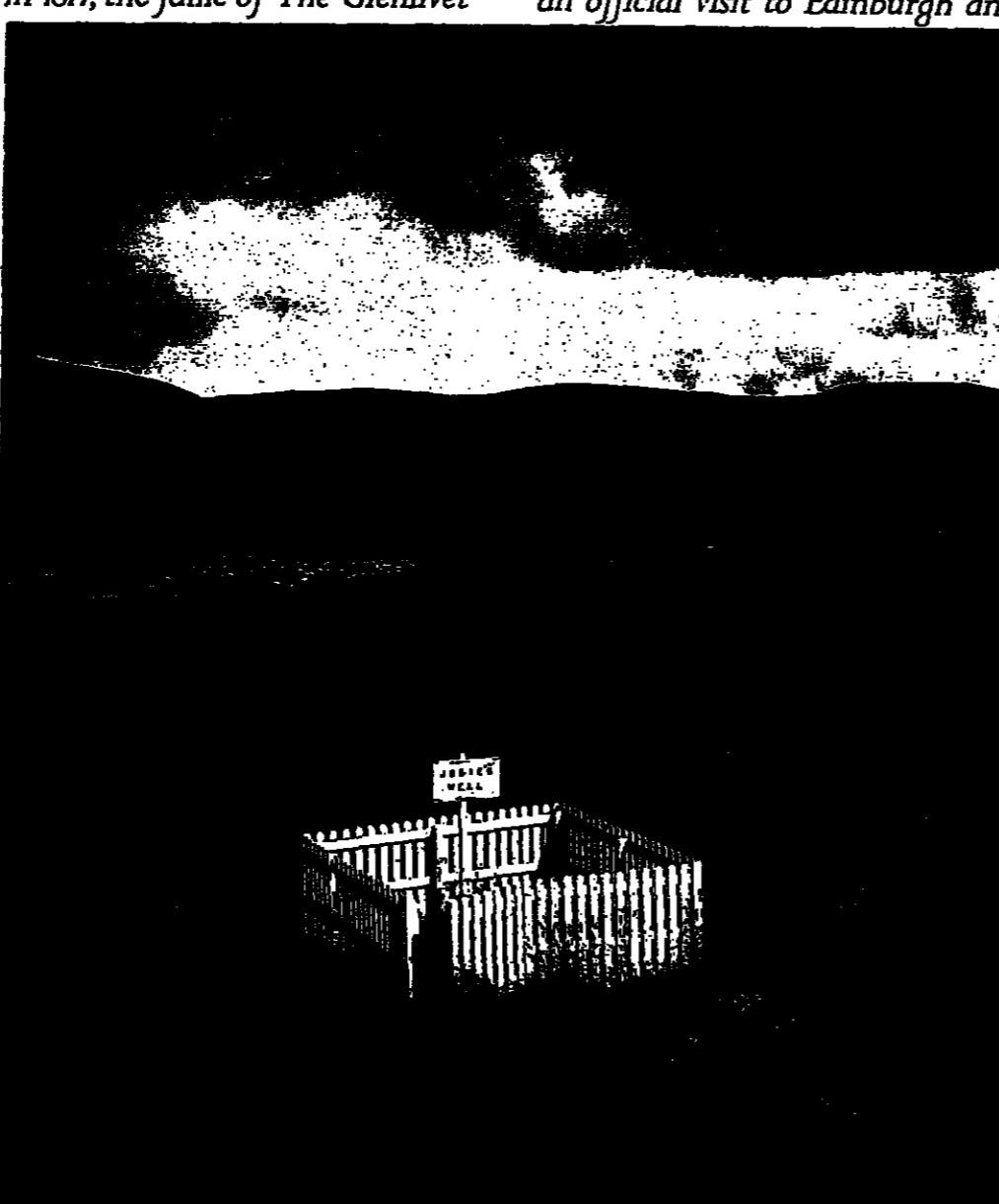
Plain sailing from then on you'd think. Nothing of the sort.

### The neighbours' burning desire.

Although George had decided to go legal, his neighbours in the glen would have none of it. They regarded him as a traitor.

"The outlook was an ugly one," wrote George. "I was warned by my civil neighbours that they meant to burn the new distillery to the ground and raze the heart of it."

Such threats in the wild remoteness of Glenlivet were not idle. So for his protection, George was presented with a pair of hair trigger pistols, worth ten guineas, a gift from his friend the Laird of



Scotland's first malt whisky.

Aberlour. The pistols (which still exist today) were "never out of my belt for years."

I got together two or three stout fellows for servants and through watching by turns every night for years we contrived to save the distillery."

And with it, they saved The Glenlivet.

For which we must all be thankful.

For it truly is the benchmark for malt whisky:

The "Grandfather of Scotch."

# FINANCIAL TIMES

BRACKEN HOUSE, CANNON STREET, LONDON EC4P 4BY  
Telex: Finantime, London PS4. Telex: 885487  
Telephone: 01-248 8000

Saturday November 30 1985

## Fumbling the growth torch

**T**HREE Americans are getting impatient with their trade partners and especially with Germany and Japan; meanwhile the Japanese are worried and the Germans almost purring with self-satisfaction. This contrast of moods, which could produce a good deal of political ill-temper in the coming months, has already produced a much quicker reaction in the currency markets: the rapid and unassisted slide of the dollar against all currencies, and especially the German mark. This fall is itself potential good news as long as it does not get entirely out of hand. This battle of economic policies and perceptions and the market's reactions will determine the shape of 1986. The Americans fear recession, the Europeans hope for non-inflationary growth.

The US view, which is set out at length and with considerable force in the current Morgan Guaranty review of financial markets, goes like this. The world recovery of the last three years, which was strong in America and the US itself, weak in Europe and non-existent in the Latin American debtor countries, is now at an end. The US is struggling to reduce its trade and fiscal deficit, and the recession which has already appeared in some usually dynamic Asian economies could spread world wide unless somebody else takes up the running in stimulating demand.

This has been an American theme for some time now, but is being pushed much harder since Mr James Baker took over at the US Treasury; indeed, the unfinished business of the Group of Five meeting which initiated the latest dollar decline was to have been a passing of the fiscal torch to Germany and Japan. Both have now flatly refused to pick it up. The Japanese are worried because their economy is already very sluggish by their standards, and they have in addition had to tighten monetary policy to make sure the yen is strong. The Germans are confident because with a spontaneously strong mark they hope to cut rates soon.

### Litmus test

The trouble is that the policy discussion is really a dialogue of the deaf. The Americans believe that high taxes are the greatest bar to economic performance; the Germans and the Japanese are much more concerned to sustain low deficits. The Americans believe that growth must be stimulated by government actions; the Germans and Japanese believe that governments do most for growth when they reduce their financial demands. Bankers also think differently on the two sides of the Atlantic. The response to Mr Baker's modest attempt to restore flows of new capital to Latin America has been seen as creative statesmanship on the

WHEN Ian Gow, the junior Treasury minister who resigned over the Anglo-Irish Agreement, told the Commons last week "it is not necessary to have a big mouth or a loud voice to care deeply about Ulster," everyone knew whom he was talking about.

For the past 15 years, the biggest mouth and the loudest voice in Ulster have been universally attributed to the Hon Member for Antrim North, the Rev Ian Paisley.

Mr Paisley is the Englishman's idea of the rabid Orange man blown up to near-satirical dimensions. He hectors and rants in Parliament and on the airwaves. He insults the English and the Irish. He abominates the Pope in language from the seventeenth century. He marches private loyalist armies up and down the hills of Antrim, and he leads the rabble through the streets of Belfast. He is strident, domineering, and a thorough embarrassment to the gentler folk in London, Belfast and even Dublin.

Those who know him better say he is also clever and amusing, has a great sense of humour, is a very shrewd political operator, and greatly enjoys playing the role that has served him so well. Even John Hume, the leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party who has been sparring with Mr Paisley for 15 years, enjoys his company and values his political skills when, in the European Parliament for instance, they find themselves fighting on the same side.

Last week in the Commons Mr Paisley played both roles at once in a beautifully controlled performance that reached his two audiences without provoking either. To the folks in Ballymena listening to the debate on the radio, it must have been heartening to hear him refer grandly to "the 200,000 people at City Hall calling for civil rights within the UK". Previous crowd estimates, after all, had ranged from the police's 70,000 to the organisers' 100,000. In the Commons, audacious and not grand but bland, it is quite simply that the nationalists—primarily Mr Hume—have succeeded in mov-

## THE FADING PRIVATE HEALTH CARE BOOM

# A grey hint of future expansion

By Robin Pauley

**N**ERVOUS investors in private hospitals, a glittering growth and profit sector in the early 1980s, are now asking this question: has the boom merely stalled in the US and Britain, or is it over for good?

In the US, the leading corporations are urgently restructuring in the face of falling profit margins. Those same corporations are also aiming for control of the major part of the private hospital business in Britain, where there are signs of some of the same ills besetting the US market.

On the face of it, there is plenty of potential with only 3 per cent of the UK population having private medical insurance. The market grew steadily but undramatically until 1974, then levelled off during the period of the last Labour Government. (The total number of people covered by insurance rose from just over half-a-million in 1955 to 2.4m in 1979.)

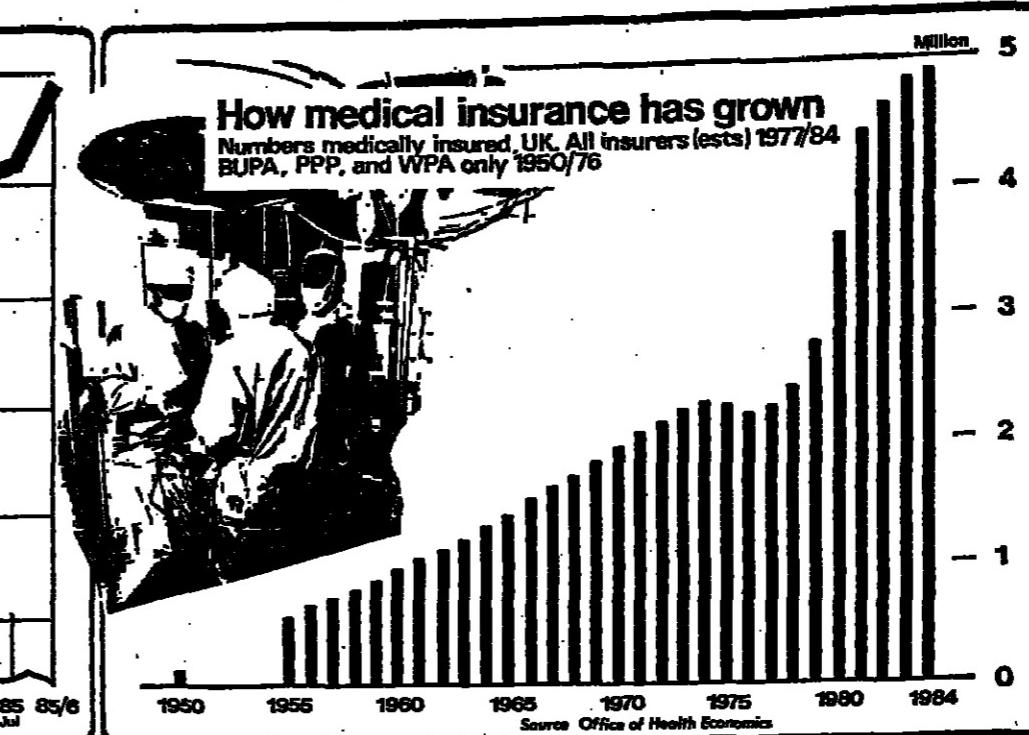
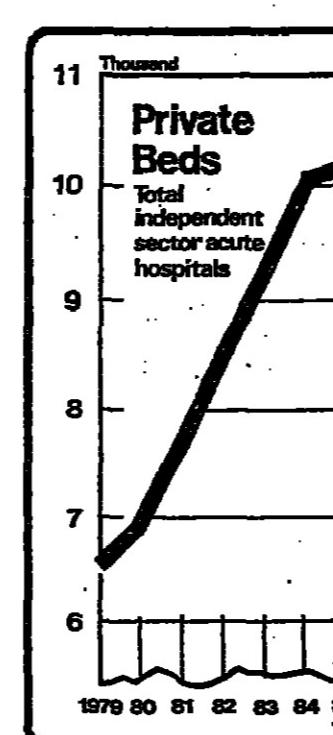
When the Conservatives came to power in 1979 they made clear that competition and market forces should apply as much to the health sector as to any other and the growth of both insurance cover and private hospital provision accelerated.

While the insurance market, now worth around £500m a year, and covering 5m people, remains firmly in British control—the country's three major provident associations hold more than 90 per cent of the business—the commercial private hospital sector has proved a magnet for foreign capital, mainly American but also some Arab investment led by the Kuwaitis.

There are now 201 private hospitals in Britain, compared with 149 in 1979, and the number of beds is up from 6,578 to 9,155 over the period. Within this total the charitable sector has grown only very slowly, up from 88 hospitals in 1979 to 95. The "for-profit" sector has increased over the same period from 61 to 106 hospitals and from 1,900 beds to 4,883 beds.

The same leading US corporations which are reviewing strategy at home are those which spearheaded this commercial expansion. They are American Medical International (AMI), Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), Humana, and National Medical Enterprises (NME). Between them these four own or control 12 per cent of the US commercial hospital sector with 900 hospitals and 15,000 of the total 1m hospital and most countries.

The British view seems closer to the American than it was; the emphasis is on tax cuts, and the Government seems content to let interest rates remain near the top of the world league. This reflects both political priorities and the fact that British wage costs are rising much more obstinately than those of any other major economy. But the British do not secretly hope that everyone else will pull the interest rate iron out of the fire, reducing the debt burden and encouraging the growth of trade; we follow less Germanic policies, but hope that the Germans are right.



Harrow Health Centre for £700,000, taking over Britain's only fully privatised GP service. The company is also planning to move into private psychiatric care, a potentially large market in which there are only 20 private NHS beds. Two of the leading US operators in the psychiatric field—Charter and Community Psychiatric Hospitals—have already been attracted to Britain and have five hospitals between them.

Analysts who have watched the rapidly developing troubles in the US are not surprised at the turn of events in the UK.

Mr Robert Cohen, a managing director in the Butcher Capital Markets division of Quicche and Singer of Philadelphia, was in Britain last month to look at the private health sector.

"The situation appears similar in both countries," he reports. "There is no shortage of venture capital in both the UK and US but after the phenomenal private health expansion in 1980 to 1983 in which many venture capitalists got badly burned, especially in biotechnology, people are going to be much more wary about where they invest. Traditional concepts of high profit generators, like acute hospitals, are out and new markets will be required."

"The obvious next growth areas in the US are going to be nursing home beds—they are a demand from hospital management organisations and retirement communities."

As in the US, the elderly in Britain are living longer and making up a growing proportion of the population. There are already signs that the "greying" population is a growth area for the British private health sector. The number of private homes for the elderly doubled to 5,100 between 1981 and 1984. Up to 1990 and beyond the number of elderly people in long term care is projected to rise at the rate of 6,000 to 7,000 a year with public sector provision unlikely to increase.

In addition to residential nursing homes, the British market is following the US market with a new growth area in sheltered homes for the elderly with developers offering a variety of schemes which provide accommodation with call bells linked to a warden resident on the site.

The Americans are looking one step ahead of them. They have started to develop small communities for the elderly with full medical and hospital facilities on site, the latest being in Indianapolis, where one company is putting up retirement homes and another company is establishing a medical and nursing home complex across the road.

"Some sheltered housing projects have failed in the US because of the lack of medical facilities so being provided together. That'll probably be your next development in the UK," says Robert Cohen.

### THE AMERICAN LEADERS

AMI, based in Beverley Hills, made its first acquisition in Britain in 1970 by buying the Harley Street Clinic and is the largest foreign operator in the country with 12 hospitals and 2,000 beds.

HCA, second largest foreign operator, is based in Nashville, Tennessee, where it set up in 1963 with one hospital. It has 448 health care centres and more than 60,000 beds around the world. Its first British venture was at Sollentuna in 1982. When it became clear that such British factors as planning delays could slow down its rapid growth programme, HCA bought a ready-made chain of hospitals by paying \$145m for Seltahart Holdings' six provincial hospitals.

Humana was established in 1961 in Louisville, Kentucky, where it now has four large

hospitals and is one of the city's largest employers. In 1977 it took over the much larger American Medcorp to become the third largest US group. In 1976 it bought the expensive top-of-the-market Wellington Hospital in North London, following corporate policy by renaming it the Humana Wellington, Britain's largest commercial hospital with 265 beds and a particular expertise in heart surgery.

National Medical Enterprises (NME) is based in Los Angeles and much of its heavily diversified operations are concentrated in California. It arrived in Britain earlier this year by buying most of the assets of United Medical Enterprises, including the Alexandra and Eland Hospitals giving it 85 beds.

His response is a new strategy, largely fulfilled in the US, to tap some potentially lucrative specialist markets which might restore the glitters to the tarnished sector. AMI, for example, plans to open Britain's first private casualty unit in Windsor. Earlier this year the company bought the

### Man in the News

Ian Paisley

## Pragmatist behind the fire and brimstone

Margaret van Hattem



He spoke of people living on the border, wives and mothers of policemen and soldiers, of the funeral processions, the sorrows and the heartaches—in the way the people at home have come to expect. But, unlike some of his colleagues, he avoided both the self-pity that so disgusts the other audience, and the recriminations that so offend it.

He offered an explanation, to those who were listening intently, for his occasionally outrageous behaviour in the Commons. Perhaps he did not, conceded, get much credit at Westminster. "But what does it matter? The best thing for a man in this place is to know that his people are for him. The important thing is that the grass roots that I

represent know that I represent them the way they should be represented."

Mr Paisley is firmly rooted in his own community. Born in Armagh 59 years ago, the son of a Baptist minister and a Scots mother, he grew up in Ballymena, the small town which is still his political power base. After studying at the Barry School of Evangelism in South Wales and the Reformed Theological Hall in Belfast, he began his career in the rough docklands area of Belfast, quickly acquiring a name as a fierce scourge of the Church of Rome. In the 1950s, he founded his own church, the Free Presbyterian which, when he is not engaged in overt political activity, he runs as an evangelical power house—preaching, recording religious programmes

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He could hardly have known he was laying the foundation for what is planned to be a most profitable venture.

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The shares will enjoy substantial asset backing.

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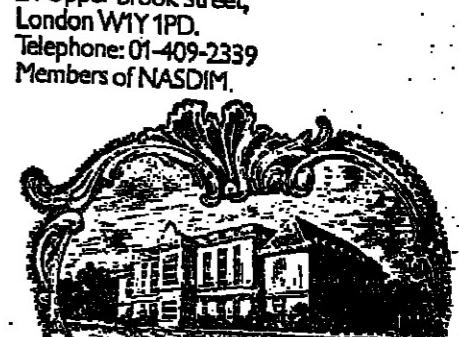
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# Animals in the lab: an industry besieged

ONE OF the British drug industry's most pressing problems came into ugly focus one weekend at the beginning of this year. In the small hours of Sunday morning six houses in Beckenham, south London, were attacked with firebombs, bricks and paint stripper. A fire at one of the houses had to be put out by the occupant, Sir John Vane, the Nobel prize-winning scientist.

All those attacked had connections with one of Britain's most respected drug companies, the Wellcome Foundation. Some had retired, and one had left to work as a veterinary surgeon. All had at some time been connected with experiments involving the use of animals.

Wellcome is by no means the only target. In April last year 100 demonstrators stormed ICI's drug research headquarters in Cheshire, doing considerable damage and stealing animal research data. Two months ago, two scientists at a joint industry/government biological research establishment had their cars blown up, with a warning that next time the cars might not be empty.

Around Britain, drug companies' research establishments look increasingly like fortresses, heavily guarded and surrounded by double perimeter fences. Filled cabinets are padlocked and chained to the wall. Security, in some cases, has been extended to scientists' homes.

The British lead the world in action against animal experiments. The lobby ranges all the way from established bodies such as the RSPCA, which "at the need for animal research in principle but wish to see it practice," to locally organised extremist groups such as the Animal Rights Militia, the Southern Animal Liberation League and the Animal Liberation Front.

Strength of British feeling on the topic is of very long standing. It is more than 200 years since Dr Johnson, in an impassioned article against animal experiments, wrote: "If knowledge of physiology has been somewhat increased, he surely buys knowledge dear who learns at the expense of his humanity. It is time that universal resentment should arise against these horrid operations."

Recent extreme manifestations of that resentment, while very far from universal, pose a host of problems for the drug industry. Besides specific questions of physical security, there is the matter of public image.

Recent measures by the UK Government to limit the industry's profits — the reduction of NEDER-derived profit levels, the restriction of the number of drugs allowed on prescription — have rested partly on a shrewd appreciation of the sympathies of the electorate, many of whom have a vague feeling that it is inherently wrong for industry to make profits out of healing. Publicly on the sensitive topic of animal research, drug companies feel, could deepen the prejudice.

This may be exaggerated. Two drug companies which also have consumer operations — Boots and Beecham — have this year been the target of organised consumer boycotts based on their involvement in animal research. Both report that the tactic had little effect on their business.

A further problem concerns those working for the drug companies themselves. One industry executive, pointing to the search files, says: "One big difficulty is keeping these things as unobtrusive as possible. Our people get upset."

The head of pharmaceuticals at another company agrees. "A

**Tomorrow Switzerland votes whether to ban animal research**  
Tony Jackson reports on an issue which has inflamed passions throughout Europe

lot of people working here don't like what we're doing with animals in the first place. It's a classic case of double vision — like people who queue up at the butcher's, but would do anything to avoid a slaughterhouse."

The delicacy of the topic is evident throughout the UK Government's proposed legislation on animal experiments, due to be enacted early next year, which will replace the old Cruelty to Animals Act of 1876 and codify subsequent informal amendments.

The supplementary White Paper published in May of this year puts the case for animal research forcibly. "Research into cancer, arthritis, multiple sclerosis and the many unsolved areas of disease in man and animals, often crippling, must continue. Medicines and vaccines must be tested for safety... Much of this work has necessarily involved scientific procedures on living animals. It is our duty to the world as well as to our own people to keep up our leading place in biomedical research."

But, as the White Paper also insists: "One of the tests of a civilised society is its treatment

of animals" — In a revealing phrase, the paper argues for continued special treatment for dogs, cats and horses. "It is right to pay special attention to the companions of man for whom there is the greatest public concern."

In fact, experiments on these three species totalled only 0.6 per cent of the 3.5m experiments carried out last year in the UK. The animals which bear the real brunt of research are mice, making up 54 per cent of last year's total, and rats, adding up to a further 22 per cent. The guinea-pig, the test animal of folklore, is little used; experiments on guinea-pigs last year were fewer than experiments on

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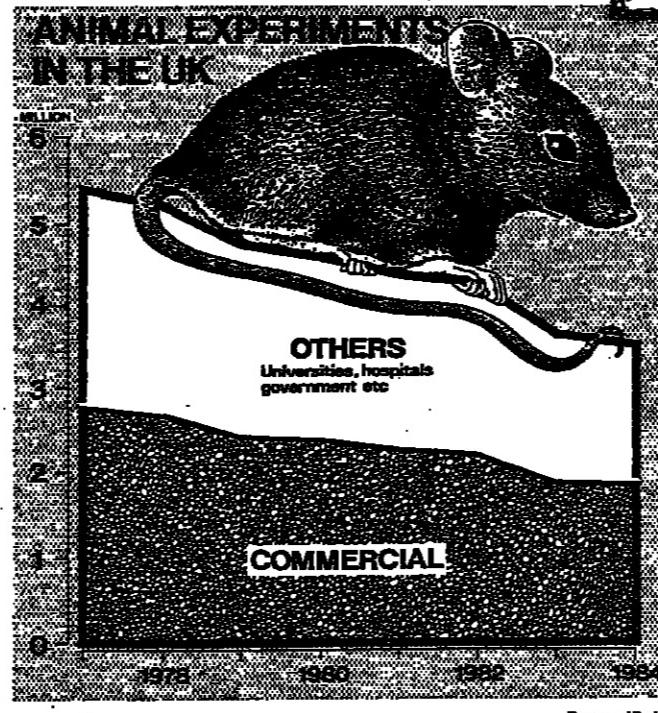
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ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS  
IN THE LAB

OTHERS  
Universities, hospitals  
government etc

COMMERCIAL

Barnes/Daley

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# UK COMPANY NEWS

## Thorn screen division deal near

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR

Cannon Group, owner of the classic cinema chain, and Heron International, Mr Gerald Honson's privately-owned company have emerged as the strongest contender for the screen entertainments division of Thorn EMI, with an offer worth almost £110m.

News of their joint bid for the business, which includes the chain of more than 100 ABC cinemas, produced a wave of protests from leading British film makers concerned at the concentration of so many cinemas under the same ownership.

Cannon accounts for 24 per cent of the UK cinema market while Thorn EMI has 33 per cent. Rank has 23 per cent while independent operators have 20 per cent.

The Association of Independ-

ent Producers is seeking the intervention of the Office of Fair Trading to obtain a reference of the deal—if it goes through—on monopoly grounds.

Cannon is a Los Angeles-based company headed by Mr Menahem Golan and Mr Yoram Globus.

It claims to be the largest independent film producer in the US and owns chains of cinemas in the UK, the Netherlands and Italy.

Heron, which has joint video interests with Cannon, said last night it was negotiating the final terms of the contract and it hoped to complete the deal next week.

Thorn EMI screen entertainments would be run as a joint venture, Mr Alan Goldman, a Heron director said. It would not be broken up.

Heron said it believed it was the only group still negotiating with Thorn EMI, a view which was confirmed by cinema industry sources close to the transaction.

Mr David Putman, producer of "Charlote's Web", said Cannon had no record of supporting the British film industry.

"I can't see any way in which the industry would be better off by this deal. I hope Thorn EMI is being guided by something other than cash on an awful lot of effort put into British films over the past seven years will have been wasted."

Mr Simon Perry, chairman of the independent producers association, said: "This is a grim moment indeed. I hope the Monopolies Commission will look very carefully at it."

The year ended March 1985, Thorn put it up for sale following the arrival of Sir Graham Wilkins as chairman in June on the grounds it did not fit in well with Thorn's other activities.

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See Lex

## Matthew Brown steps up bid defence

By Lionel Barber

Matthew Brown, the Blackburn-based brewer facing a hostile £125m takeover bid from Scottish & Newcastle, yesterday announced a 16 per cent full year pre-tax profits rise to £82m.

Continuing its vigorous defence, Matthew Brown also said it was recommending a final dividend of 9.35p per share, making a total for the year to September 1985 of 15.5p. The company intends to produce a profits forecast for 1986 next week.

Mr Patrick Townsend, chairman, described the bid battle as a "cliffhanger" and urged smaller shareholders, who count for some 25 per cent of the equity, to stick with the company. He believed Matthew Brown's two major institutional shareholders, the Britannia Assurance and Whitbread Investment who hold around 18 per cent, were "solid."

However, building it rapidly would be more difficult because of the shortage of suitable UK acquisition prospects, Mr McGillivray said.

Erskine Europa performed well, exceeding its budget and last year's corresponding result which accounts for two-thirds of the total business, produced a healthy growth in its contribution. The chairman said he was confident that, given the

solid foundation provided by W.H. Groves (acquired in July), this division would progressively contribute a higher proportion to the group's profit.

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See Lex

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He also disclosed that he expected the company to spend around £500,000 on the eight-month bid battle, a figure covering legal and merchant banking fees and its bolstrom advertising campaign.

"I think the figure is a gross waste of money," he said, "but we did not start the fight."

S & N holds around 26 per cent of Matthew Brown. The national brewer is offering 16 new S & N ordinary shares for every five Matthew Brown shares or a cash alternative of \$40p.

On the basis of last night's closing prices, with S & N up 1p to 192p, the share offer is worth just over 614p. Matthew Brown shares, despite the profits rise, fell 1p to close at 572p.

It emerged last night that Schroders, advising Matthew Brown, had bought 83,000 shares representing around 0.3 per cent of the equity.

Schroders said the move was aimed at locking up any loose equity before the final closing date of December 11. "We believe that outcome will be very close."

S & N advised by Morgan Grenfell, declined to comment yesterday. But Morgan Grenfell said that Matthew Brown's profits rise disguised a less impressive 3.4 per cent increase in earnings per share.

Schroders retorted that the figure was a "temporary blip" due to a higher than usual tax charge in 1985.

Mr Townsend said that the recent acquisition of the former independent brewer, Thaxton, had yet to come through in the 1985 profit figures. "But the contribution this year from Thaxton will certainly be material," he said.

## Lowe Howard Spink 5m share issue

By Terry Povey

AN ISSUE of 5m shares has been announced by Lowe Howard-Spink Campbell Holdings to finance the acquisition reported previously of various advertising agencies in Europe, Australia, Canada and the US from Interpublic Group. Lowe Howard-Spink & Bell (LHSB).

Of the issue which will add almost 50 per cent to the issued shares, IPG will receive 947,000 ordinary and 1,850 preference ordinary. The remaining 2.2m ordinary shares are to be placed at 300p by Morgan Grenfell.

After the issue IPG will hold 38.3 per cent of the equity and 30.1 per cent of the voting rights

and S & N 22.1 per cent.

BET protested that information contained in informal press briefings had affected SGB's share price. After consulting Kleinwort Benson, SGB's merchant bank adviser, the Panel assured BET that details of SGB's defence had not been discussed.

BET claimed later, however, that exact figures had been released to journalists.

"If this information proves accurate we must protest in the strongest possible terms that BET's position has been prejudiced," BET said to the Panel.

BET added: "Quite obviously they have given the game away and they have still refused to send us a copy of the document."

Kleinwort defended its briefings of journalists as "absolutely par for the course" and said it was regular practice in bid situations.

See Lex

## Industrial Scotland £7.5m rights

By Terry Povey

Industrial Scotland, the USM listed oil and gas exploration and production company, is raising £7.5m net from a two for five rights issue of 6.5m shares priced at 120p each.

The company has decided to make this call for funds in order to avoid having to dilute its stakes in various blocks in Europe, to support further permits in the Paris basin area, and generally to support the exploration programme.

ISE joined the USM in August 1984 raising £1.6m in a one for five rights at 110p. Although better than forecast profits of £2.3m for the 15 months to the end of 1984 were achieved, the company was at the time of its interim (in July) pre-tax profits were £1.3m. This was now in a very uncertain period where weaker oil prices would not be offset by currency gains.

The company is active in exploration both onshore and offshore in the UK and holds an interest in some of the blocks awarded in the ninth round of offshore licences. In France the group has been expanding its acreage in the Vireperdue and Chaunay oilfields and the Paris Basin.

Deals in the new shares are expected to start on December 17. The issue has been underwritten by J.Y. Henry Schroder Wag and the brokers to the issue are Fielding, Newson-Smith and Parsons.

The directors say that demand on the foundries fluctuated considerably and in volume terms output was down by 10 per cent. Electrical engineering activities, however, did better and accounted for a larger share of group profit.

## Akzo claims victory in £16m offer for Blundell

By LIONEL BARBER

Akzo, the Dutch chemicals group, yesterday staved off a late challenge from Reed International, the UK paper and packaging conglomerate, to claim victory in its £15.6m bid for Blundell-Pembridge, the troubled British paint maker.

Akzo, advised by S.G. Warburg, bought aggressively in the market throughout the day to take its holding to more than 80 per cent after Reed entered the battle early yesterday morning.

Reed, advised by Kleinwort Benson, offered 185p in cash or an eight for 31 share swap in an effort to entice shareholders who had failed to accept Akzo's 175p cash offer for the previous day.

Blundell is one of the last independent British paint makers and in recent months has fallen victim to fierce price competition in the UK paints market.

Blundell's advisers, Lazard, said that the main reason for accepting the Akzo offer was a belief that the bidder would preserve jobs at the company.

Akzo is currently represented in the UK by Sikorski which imports nearly all its paint from Holland and specialises in the UK car market. Blundell management said on Thursday it hoped that the new owner would use the company's modern Hull paint manufacturing plant to supply Sikorski.

Reed argued yesterday that its subsidiary Crown Paints would complement Blundell since Crown was stronger in the retail sector, while Blundell was almost exclusively a supplier to the trade.

Akzo's final offer of 200p per Blundell share values the company at £15.6m.

## Tomkinsons at record £1.1m

Tomkinsons, the Worcestershire-based carpet manufacturer, more than trebled pre-tax profits from £38.8m to a record £1.1m in the year ended September 28, 1985. Turnover rose 18 per cent to £82.8m, of which over 50 per cent derived from the

current year.

Earnings per 25p share are shown at 38.1p (12.4p) pre-tax and at 35.5p (11.1p) after tax. The dividend is raised by 20 per cent from 5p to 6p net, while a one-for-one scrip issue is also proposed.

In quiet market conditions, the group's principal UK business—the supply of carpets to wholesalers and retailers under the Mr Tomkinsons brand—strengthened substantially in the year. The same was

true of the export business, which benefited from a buoyant US market.

Stedman, the contract division, also produced good results and Mid-Wales Yarns, the spinning side, provided a strong contribution to group performance.

Making good use of last year's substantial capital expenditure on high technology equipment.

The chairman says the group has a strong infrastructure and the board is firm in its resolve to look for further growth.

## BET complains to Panel over SGB defence tactic

By CHARLES BATCHELOR

BET, the diversified services group which has launched a £12m takeover bid for SGB, the scaffolding company, complained yesterday to the Takeover Panel that SGB has released advance information contained in its defence document.

SGB announced a 23 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.3m in the year ended September 1985. It plans to recommend a total dividend of 1.5p, an increase of 18 per cent, and expects to propose a further 33 per cent rise to 10p for the current year.

BET protested that information contained in informal press briefings had affected SGB's share price. After consulting Kleinwort Benson, SGB's merchant bank adviser, the Panel assured BET that details of SGB's defence had not been discussed.

BET claimed later, however, that exact figures had been released to journalists.

"If this information proves accurate we must protest in the strongest possible terms that BET's position has been prejudiced," BET said to the Panel.

BET added: "Quite obviously they have given the game away and they have still refused to send us a copy of the document."

Kleinwort defended its briefings of journalists as "absolutely par for the course" and said it was regular practice in bid situations.

See Lex

## Laura Ashley allocations

MORE than 80,000 applicants are to become shareholders in Laura Ashley as a result of the offer for sale which closed on Thursday.

SGB sold SGB Booker to Boral, the Australian building materials group, for A\$3.5m cash (£1.5m).

SGB is one of a number of SGB's foreign ventures which ran into difficulties. In the year ended September 1984 it suffered a month-long strike in Sydney which, together with being involved in a price-cutting war, led to a substantial trading loss.

A large reduction in these losses is expected in the year ended September 1985.

SGB has made a small profit on the net book value of SGB Booker of A\$8.7m (£4.1m). SGB will also receive a 3.5 per cent royalty for 10 years on the sale of all SGB products made in Australia.

Those who applied for between 5,000 and 10,000 shares will receive 300 shares each.

Applicants for 10,000 shares will receive 500, applicants for 30,000 shares will receive 600 and applicants for 40,000 shares will receive 800.

Those applying for 50,000 shares and above will receive 1.66 per cent of the number applied for subject to a maximum of 200,000.

Letters of acceptance are expected to be posted to successful applicants next Wednesday.

## Dew warns of 70% profit fall

George Dew, the civil engineering group facing a hostile £8m reverse takeover bid from Bremner, the diversifying Glasgow-based dry-store, yesterday forecast a 70 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £1m for the year to December 31.

The profits fall is due to Dew's past difficulties in Saudi Arabia and the flat UK civil engineering market, was accompanied by a forecast drop in turnover to £20m (£36m).

However, in a defence document issued yesterday, the group said it intended to recommend a maintained dividend of 3.4p per share, making a total of 5.7p for the year.

The placing, which represents 40 per cent of the enlarged share capital, will raise £2.13m of which £1.65m will be new money for the company. None of the directors are selling any shares.

Profits have grown £78,000 in the year to March 1981 to £685,000 in the year to last March. For the current year

they are forecast to be £225,000, putting the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 8.2 after a 38 per cent tax charge.

The company says the flotation will cut borrowings.

Strength in the capital base and finance the construction of additional pig feed production plant. It will also facilitate growth organically and through acquisition.

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## INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

### TSE membership for six foreign firms approved

By CARLA RAPORT IN TOKYO

**THE TOKYO Stock Exchange** share dealings in Tokyo have been done through Japanese foreign investment banks and securities houses to become the first non-Japanese members in the exchange's history.

The six—part of a 10-seat expansion of membership to 93 seats—are Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley of the US, Vickers da Costa and S. G. Warburg of the UK and Jardine Fleming, the Hong Kong-based joint venture between Robert Fleming of the UK and Jardine Matheson in Hong Kong.

The exchange did not announce the date when the new members will be allowed to begin dealing, but it is understood to be early next year. Until now, foreign companies'

First Boston of the US, Jardine Fleming, the largest of the six new foreign members in terms of securities traded in Japan, paid Y2.58bn (\$12.2m) to commissioners to Japanese brokers in the year to September.

Although it will now be able to keep this income once the first-year costs of membership are expected to be between Y1.3bn and Y1.4bn.

This will include around Y1bn for the membership and the rest due to the costs of hiring our traders and buying extra computer equipment.

The four Japanese firms given approval for membership are Imaizawa and Hiroka Securities of Osaka and Okachi and Tokai Securities of Nagoya.

### Restructuring for Fiat's bio-engineering interests

By JAMES BUXTON IN ROME

**FLAT**, the leading Italian private sector group, is to transfer its interests in the field of bioengineering to Snia BPD, the Italian munitions, chemicals and textiles group, in which Fiat already holds a controlling minority stake.

The result of this operation will be that Fiat will increase its stake in Snia BPD from 22 per cent to a little less than 40 per cent. Fiat will henceforth consolidate the turnover of Snia BPD in its own results.

Fiat pointed out yesterday that its bio-engineering operations had strong compatibility

with the advanced research carried out by Snia BPD.

Fiat's interests in bioengineering are controlled by a Dutch registered company, International Holding Fiat. This owns the whole of Bio-engineering International, which in turn owned 75 per cent of Soria Biomedica, which specialises in advanced medical equipment. In 1984 the bio-engineering sector had sales of L122bn (\$71.3m).

To absorb Bio-engineering, International, Snia BPD, whose sales in 1984 were L2.100bn, will make an increase in capital.

### Amsted buyout shelved

By TERRY DODSWORTH IN NEW YORK

A MANAGEMENT group at Amsted Industries, the Chicago conglomerate, has abandoned its initial attempts to mount a \$500m leveraged buyout for the company, but says that it is trying to organise an alternative plan to take the group private.

No reason for the change in the takeover plans was given, although it was confirmed that several law suits alleging self-dealing on the part of the executives involved in the scheme had been launched.

The group said that a new bank had offered to lead a

'since fallen to \$451.

### PAF plans \$26m rights issue

**PAF**, the Italian conglomerate which is negotiating the purchase of a near 12 per cent shareholding in Montedison, the big chemicals group, plans to make a rights issue before the end of the year, writes Our Financial Staff.

The share issue will raise

around L45bn (\$26.5m) and will help finance the Montedison share purchase.

PAF, with interests in shipbuilding, paint and finance, hopes to buy the chemical group's shares for around L315bn.

The funding proposals were unveiled yesterday by Mr Gianni Varasi, head of PAF who was in London to meet City institutions. He said PAF profits for 1985 would total L14bn net, an increase of 30 per cent.

Montedison's net asset value at 31 October, 1985, was Dfl 6.33

### European Assets Trust NV

The net asset value at 31st October, 1985, was Dfl 6.33

LADBROKE INDEX

1,141-1,145 (+14)

Based on FT Index

Tel: 01-427 4411

### LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Option	CALLS			PUTS		
	Jan.	Apr.	July	Jan.	Apr.	July
B.P. ("370)	500 55 60	—	—	5 10 15	—	—
550 60 65	—	—	—	5 10 15	—	—
600 11 20	50 55	—	—	5 10 15	—	—
Coca Cola ("801)	450 57 70	84	9	25 35	—	—
500 60 75	—	—	—	25 35	—	—
550 65 80	—	—	—	25 35	—	—
Courtaulds ("194)	240 56 60	65	1	1	1	174
250 60 65	40	44	—	1	1	174
280 65 70	25	29	—	1	1	174
300 70 75	15	17	—	1	1	174
300 75 80	—	—	—	1	1	174
Distillers ("611)	450 55 60	70	20	25 35	—	—
500 60 65	55	70	25	25 35	—	—
550 65 70	25	25	25	25 35	—	—
G.E.C. ("176)	140 36 44	—	—	3 5	—	7
160 40 48	20	26	35	—	—	—
180 50 58	18	24	32	12	15	16
200 55 63	5	6	20	12	15	16
Grand Met. ("288)	350 65 70	80	8	9	10	—
350 65 75	25	25	25	9	10	—
350 70 75	15	17	25	25	25	—
I.G.I. ("117)	600 130 157	167	6	6	8	8
700 140 165	105	125	22	22	22	27
750 150 175	40	45	25	25	25	27
Land Sec. ("510)	260 55 65	—	—	1	1	174
280 55 65	45	57	—	1	1	174
300 55 65	35	47	—	1	1	174
350 55 65	11	17	25	25	25	27
Marks & Sp. ("184)	150 57 65	—	—	1	1	174
160 57 65	57	65	—	1	1	174
180 57 65	25	33	57	11	14	174
200 57 65	15	21	25	11	14	174
Shell Trans. ("563)	850 55 60	65	12	25	25	20
750 55 60	25	25	25	25	25	20
Transgas Hes. ("326)	150 20 25	45	55	11	15	5
200 20 25	20	25	12	15	15	20
250 20 25	16	22	25	12	15	25
300 20 25	11	17	25	12	15	25
Imperial Gr. ("485)	160 93 96	—	—	1	1	1
180 93 96	25	25	—	1	1	1
200 93 96	25	25	—	1	1	1
220 93 96	35	44	—	1	1	1
240 93 96	31	37	—	1	1	1
LASMO ("228)	240 54 58	50	65	11	15	114
250 54 58	23	30	43	11	15	114
260 54 58	19	25	55	11	15	114
300 54 58	11	17	57	11	15	114
320 54 58	31	37	12	17	18	114
340 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
360 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
380 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
400 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
420 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
440 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
460 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
480 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
500 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
520 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
540 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
560 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
580 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
600 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
620 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
640 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
660 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
680 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
700 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
720 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
740 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
760 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
780 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
800 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
820 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
840 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
860 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
880 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
900 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
920 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
940 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
960 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
980 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
1000 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
1020 54 58	25	31	37	12	17	114
1040 54 58	25	31	37			

# WORLD STOCK MARKETS

## NEW YORK

Stock	Nov. 29	Nov. 27	Stock	Nov. 29	Nov. 27	Stock	Nov. 29	Nov. 27	Stock	Nov. 29	Nov. 27	Stock	Nov. 29	Nov. 27
AGE Computers	185	185	Ghubb	541	633	Wall F&B	26	29	Morton Thiokol	251	351	Schlumberger	554	56
AMCA	112	112	Cigna	628	624	Halliburton	264	281	Motorola	254	354	Scientific Atlan.	112	115
AMR Corp.	48	48	Cincinnati Mil.	177	18	Hammerrill Ppr	343	354	Multimedia	256	354	SGCM	723	726
AMT	352	354	Clark Equipment	25	25	Harris Mining	20	198	National Ind.	258	358	Siemens	723	726
AMV	152	152	Cleve Cliffs Iron	18	1758	Harpe Corp.	26	26	Naico Chem.	243	343	Sipco	723	726
Abbott Lab.	62	62	Glorox	231	233	Harsco Corp.	314	314	Sea Containers	354	354	Siemens	723	726
Acme Glass	134	134	Hecla Mining	481	472	Nat. Dist. Chem.	341	341	Seafair	456	456	Seagene Tech.	61	61
Adobe Res.	117	117	Hellerstein Brew.	472	472	Net. Med. Equip.	258	258	Sea Gyrosp.	456	456	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Advanced Micro	277	272	Colgate Palm.	293	301	Net. Semicond.	271	271	Security Pac.	293	292	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Aetna Life	52	52	Compton Alman.	274	264	NRD Bancorp.	577	576	Service Master	221	221	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Ahmanson (H.F.)	40	40	Cont'l Hotel.	507	502	NONB	414	42	Shawmut	293	292	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
AI Prod. & Chem	617	624	Conn. Edison	284	281	Hercules	85	877	Shawmut	373	373	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Aliberon's	51	51	Coastal Corp.	354	357	Hershey	64	634	Shawmut	373	373	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Alean Aluminum	26	26	Consumer Power	354	357	Hewlett-Packard	152	152	Shawmut	373	373	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Aico Standard	359	356	Cont'l Corp.	287	287	Hughes Tool.	277	278	Shawmut	373	373	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Alexander & AI	52	52	Conn. Satellite	315	316	Humana	214	214	Shawmut	373	373	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Allied Signal	187	187	Comp. Science	284	281	Holiday Inn	557	556	SNC	371	371	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Allied Stores	65	65	Computer Assoc.	111	111	Holly Sugar	324	324	Skyline	143	143	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Allis Chalmers	34	34	Conn. Edison	354	354	Hormel	11	11	Slattery Group	154	154	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Am. Broadcast	134	134	Cons. Freight	354	354	Houma	478	478	Smith Kline	771	771	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Am. Cynamid	65	65	Cons. Nat. Gas	454	454	Huggins	341	341	Sonat	29	29	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Am. Elec. Power	29	29	Coors Advt.	184	185	Hurricane	28	28	Sonicore Prods.	29	29	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Am. Express	487	49	Cooking Glass	516	527	Hurt	264	264	Sparta Corp.	293	292	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Am. G. Corp.	29	29	Copperfield	94	94	Iceland	284	284	Sperry Corp.	484	484	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Am. G. Green	29	29	Crane	354	354	Ind. Int.	137	137	Spring	40	40	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Am. Holst.	81	81	Coors Advt.	184	185	Illinoian	494	494	Squibb	784	773	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Am. Home Prod.	512	512	Crown Cork	514	514	Ill. North	214	214	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Am. Int'l. Grp.	100	97	Cummins Eng.	654	654	Ill. West	178	178	Starkey	254	254	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Am. Hoist	17	17	Curtiss Wright	354	354	Ind. South	277	278	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Am. Motors	23	23	Daley Systems	274	274	Ind. West	178	178	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Am. National	244	244	Data Inter.	264	264	Inter First Corp.	214	214	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Am. Petrotina	534	534	Data	267	267	Inter Inter.	214	214	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
AM Standards	342	345	Dart & Kraft	354	354	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Am. Standard	641	651	Dayton	174	174	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
AMT & T.	233	233	Dayco	444	444	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Amtech	584	584	Dayton Hudson	444	444	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Amfaco	231	234	Daire	274	274	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Analogs Devices	431	431	Diamond Shamrock	454	454	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Anchor Hock	24	24	Discos Equip.	274	274	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Architectural	14	14	Disney Wkt.	99	99	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Apple Comp.	24	24	Dominion	514	514	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Archer Daniels	244	244	Dow Corning	61	61	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Archer Daniels Pub Ser.	244	244	Dow Chemical	422	422	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Arkin	94	94	Dresser	193	193	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Armco	94	94	Duke Power	573	573	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Armstrong Wld.	421	421	Dun & Bradstreet	801	801	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Asarcoc	179	179	Dun & Bradstreet	801	801	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Ashtech Opt.	14	14	Dun & Bradstreet	801	801	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Assurance Good's	351	351	DynCorp	274	274	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Atlantic Rich.	67	67	Emerson Elect.	76	76	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Auto Data Pro.	573	573	Federal Eng.	274	274	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Avon Ind'l.	36	36	Federal Eng.	274	274	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Avnet	357	354	Federal Eng.	274	274	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Avon Prod.	273	273	Federal Eng.	274	274	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Baker Int'l.	167	167	Federal Eng.	274	274	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Baldwin Ut'd.	14	14	Federal Eng.	274	274	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381	381
Baltimore & E.	22	22	Federal Eng.	274	274	Inter North	444	458	Stanley (A.P.)	234	234	Shamrock Med. Sys.	381</td	







# AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS & INSURANCES

General Securities Fund Mgmt Ltd	01-241 5005	Swiss Life Pct. Trst. Inst. Co Ltd (a)(c)	07/24 London SE1
International Growth Fund	01-241 5006	79-11 London Rd, Scotland	07/24
Investment Fund	01-241 5007	100 St George's Rd, London SW1	07/24
Special Offerings	01-241 5008	100 St George's Rd, London SW1	07/24
Income Fund	01-241 5009	100 St George's Rd, London SW1	07/24
James Croft Fund	01-241 5010	100 St George's Rd, London SW1	07/24
US Growth Fund	01-241 5011	100 St George's Rd, London SW1	07/24
Pacific Growth Fund	01-241 5012	100 St George's Rd, London SW1	07/24
Private Income Fund	01-241 5013	100 St George's Rd, London SW1	07/24
Private Assets Fund	01-241 5014	100 St George's Rd, London SW1	07/24
Perpetual Unit Trust Mgmt. Ltd	01-241 5015	100 St George's Rd, London SW1	07/24
49 Han St, Henley-on-Thames		PO Box 3, Keen House, Andover, Hants SP10 1PG	07/24
International Growth Fund	01-241 5016	250 High Street, W1 7EJ	07/24
Worldwide Recovery Fund	01-241 5017	250 High Street, W1 7EJ	07/24
America Growth Fund	01-241 5018	250 High Street, W1 7EJ	07/24
Private Fund	01-241 5019	250 High Street, W1 7EJ	07/24
Perpetual Fund	01-241 5020	250 High Street, W1 7EJ	07/24
Proteus Fund	01-241 5021	250 High Street, W1 7EJ	07/24
Profit Fund	01-241 5022	250 High Street, W1 7EJ	07/24
Perpetual Unit Trust Mgmt. Ltd	01-241 5023	250 High Street, W1 7EJ	07/24
222 Bishopsgate, London EC2		36 & Target Fund Mgmt. Ltd	01-241 5047
Profit America Fund	01-241 5024	250 Marylebone Rd, EC2A 8BP	07/24
Profit Europe Fund	01-241 5025	250 St Paul's Fund	07/24
Profit America & Europe Fund	01-241 5026	250 St Paul's Fund	07/24
Target Trust Mgmt. Ltd (a)(c)	01-241 5027	Target Trust Mgmt. Ltd (a)(c)	07/24
Target New Gt. Britain & Ireland	01-241 5028	American Eagle Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5029	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5030	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5031	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5032	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5033	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5034	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5035	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5036	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5037	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5038	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5039	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5040	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5041	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5042	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5043	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5044	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5045	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5046	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5047	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5048	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5049	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5050	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5051	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5052	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5053	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5054	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5055	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5056	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5057	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5058	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5059	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5060	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5061	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5062	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5063	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5064	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5065	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5066	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5067	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5068	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5069	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5070	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5071	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5072	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5073	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5074	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5075	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5076	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5077	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5078	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5079	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5080	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5081	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5082	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5083	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5084	American Fund	07/24
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Target Fund	01-241 5090	American Fund	07/24
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Target Fund	01-241 5098	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5099	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5100	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5101	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5102	American Fund	07/24
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Target Fund	01-241 5104	American Fund	07/24
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Target Fund	01-241 5106	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5107	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5108	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5109	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5110	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5111	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5112	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5113	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5114	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5115	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5116	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5117	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5118	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5119	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5120	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5121	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5122	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5123	American Fund	07/24
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Target Fund	01-241 5125	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5126	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5127	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5128	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5129	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5130	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5131	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5132	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5133	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5134	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5135	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5136	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5137	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5138	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5139	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5140	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5141	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5142	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5143	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5144	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5145	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5146	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5147	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5148	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5149	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5150	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5151	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5152	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5153	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5154	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5155	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5156	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5157	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5158	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5159	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5160	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5161	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5162	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5163	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund	01-241 5164	American Fund	07/24
Target Fund</			

## **INSURANCE, OVERSEAS & MONEY FUNDS**

هَكُمَّا مِنْ الْأَ

WEEKEND IN ALA



PROPER											
Stock											
Price											
High											
Low											
24	Marshall (N.Y.W.I.) 20p.	47	—	46	57	11.7	23	52	9.7	52	7
46	Maryland Corp.	88	—	24	30	42	10.7	86.5	82	10	Entertain Prod. 5p.
28	McNeil Corp. 10p.	55	—	55	55	16	25.6	55	51	10	Fairline Books 10p.
202	Men. Ship. Co. 11.	487	—	55	55	43	14.3	55	51	11	First Lecture 11.
70	Mercantile Ind.	118	—	57.5	52	24	11.5	55	51	12	Flame Group 50.
52	Merkel Ind. 10p.	70	—	61.5	52	24	11.5	55	51	13	Flamey Corp. 10p.
34	Mercantile Int. 10p.	74	—	12.6	4.9	4.6	5.3	17.5	117	10	Flamey Corp. 10p.
55	Mercantile's Universe	73	—	12.8	12.8	3.9	21.8	14.8	78	11	HTV WorldVis.
78	Merchandise 10p.	82	—	74.5	23	12.7	—	75	78	12	Holiday Inn 10p.
321	Mercantile's Universe 75%	518	—	67.4	23	7.2	—	222	100	13	Jackson's Hideaway.
15	Mercantile's Universe	19	—	52.5	52	4.3	8.2	30	217	14	Jackson's Hideaway 2p.
375	Mercantile Corp.	520	—	17.25	5.0	4.3	8.2	38	217	15	JKT 10p.
110	Mercantile Corp.	195	—	6.7	7.1	7.1	8.4	115	217	16	JKT 10p.
3	Mercantile Sciences 10p.	55	—	4.8	2.1	7.1	9.6	183	217	17	JKT 10p.
63	Mercantile Matrix	88	—	4.25	2.9	8.7	17.0	205	217	18	JKT 10p.
295	Mercantile Costs	687	—	4.25	2.9	8.7	17.0	205	217	19	JKT 10p.
182	Mercantile Creative	204	—	10.0	1.6	14.2	—	124	217	20	JKT 10p.
22	Mercantile F.A. 10p.	29	—	10.5	9.5	3.1	4.8	175	217	21	JKT 10p.
52	Mercantile's Universe	111	—	12.0	12.0	3.9	11.9	127	217	22	JKT 10p.
44	Mercantile Corp.	65	—	2.5	3.4	5.5	12.3	27	217	23	JKT 10p.
214	Mercantile Computers	205	—	14.25	2.3	22.7	—	19	217	24	JKT 10p.
20	Mercantile Ind.	30	—	22.5	1.5	4.8	6.9	241	217	25	JKT 10p.
15	Mercantile Ind. 10p.	35	—	20.3	—	12	12.4	4.8	217	26	JKT 10p.
28	Mercantile Ind.	57	—	11.7	8.1	29	5.7	161	217	27	JKT 10p.
146	Mercantile	215	—	8.5	22	5.7	10.7	65	217	28	JKT 10p.
45	Mercantile 5p.	58	—	11.0	1.6	6.6	8.1	65	217	29	JKT 10p.
66	Mercantile Corp.	98	—	14.5	2.4	14.8	—	63	217	30	JKT 10p.
150	Mercantile & Elec.	212	—	17.5	2.5	11.0	9.9	143	217	31	JKT 10p.
75	Mercantile 20p.	83	—	4.7	2.5	6.4	7.4	129	217	32	JKT 10p.
22	Mercantile F.A. 10p.	29	—	3.0	2.1	6.3	8.9	151	217	33	JKT 10p.
52	Mercantile's Universe	111	—	9.5	2.9	4.6	10.7	255	217	34	JKT 10p.
45	Mercantile Group 5p.	490	—	10.10	22.4	1.8	11.6	111	217	35	JKT 10p.
512	Mercantile 12.5%	98	—	10.25	1.9	10.5	5.8	202	217	36	JKT 10p.
158	Mercantile Spec. Cos. 87.92	522	—	1.7	0.9	1.4	1.3	185	217	37	JKT 10p.
99	Mercantile Spec. Cos. 87.92	522	—	3.2	1.2	6.7	24.8	205	217	38	JKT 10p.
205	Mercantile Spec. Cos. 87.92	522	—	2.5	2.5	4.9	7.1	15	217	39	JKT 10p.
112	Mercantile Spec. Cos. 87.92	522	—	1.7	0.5	6.4	8.1	140	217	40	JKT 10p.
116	Mercantile Spec. Cos. 87.92	522	—	1.7	0.5	6.4	8.1	133	217	41	JKT 10p.
50	Mercantile Spec. Cos. 87.92	522	—	3.0	2.1	6.3	8.9	105	217	42	JKT 10p.
165	Mercantile Spec. Cos. 87.92	522	—	9.5	2.9	4.6	10.7	255	217	43	JKT 10p.
15	Mercantile Spec. Cos. 87.92	522	—	2.4	2.4	3.7	33.8	127	217	44	JKT 10p.
510	Mercantile Ind.	57	—	1.7	0.5	6.4	8.1	105	217	45	JKT 10p.
214	Mercantile Corp. 10p.	214	—	0.7	0.7	17.8	—	105	217	46	JKT 10p.
105	Mercantile Holdings	420	—	10.5	3.0	2.9	15.0	145	217	47	JKT 10p.
75	Mercantile Holdings	26	—	6.5	—	10.5	—	114	217	48	JKT 10p.
310	Mercantile Holdings	510	—	10.5	0.4	13.9	—	125	217	49	JKT 10p.
44	Mercantile Holdings	72	—	10.35	7.7	0.8	14.8	26	217	50	JKT 10p.
210	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	214	—	10.15	7.7	2.5	24.7	211	217	51	JKT 10p.
225	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	325	—	12.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	52	JKT 10p.
54	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	53	JKT 10p.
45	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	54	JKT 10p.
210	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	55	JKT 10p.
205	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	56	JKT 10p.
200	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	57	JKT 10p.
205	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	58	JKT 10p.
210	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	59	JKT 10p.
215	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	60	JKT 10p.
220	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	61	JKT 10p.
225	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	62	JKT 10p.
230	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	63	JKT 10p.
235	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	64	JKT 10p.
240	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	65	JKT 10p.
245	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	66	JKT 10p.
250	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	67	JKT 10p.
255	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	68	JKT 10p.
260	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	69	JKT 10p.
265	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	70	JKT 10p.
270	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	71	JKT 10p.
275	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	72	JKT 10p.
280	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	73	JKT 10p.
285	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	74	JKT 10p.
290	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	75	JKT 10p.
295	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	76	JKT 10p.
300	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	77	JKT 10p.
305	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	78	JKT 10p.
310	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	79	JKT 10p.
315	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	80	JKT 10p.
320	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	81	JKT 10p.
325	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	82	JKT 10p.
330	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	83	JKT 10p.
335	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	84	JKT 10p.
340	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	85	JKT 10p.
345	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	86	JKT 10p.
350	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	87	JKT 10p.
355	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	88	JKT 10p.
360	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	89	JKT 10p.
365	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	90	JKT 10p.
370	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	91	JKT 10p.
375	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	92	JKT 10p.
380	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	93	JKT 10p.
385	Mercantile Photo-Mkt.	54	—	6.5	2.5	2.5	24.7	211	217	94	J

INVESTMENT TRUSTS—Cont.									FINANCE, LAND—Cont.									MINES—Continued									
1985	High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or -	Div	%	Ytd	1985	High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or -	Div	%	Ytd	1985	High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or -	Div	%		
424	344	Dravco Japan	410	\$2.6	10	4		800	370	M. & C. Corp.	\$60	-10	\$13.5	21	2.4	29.0		1985	120	Beatrix Minn.	190	-10					
572	563	Dravco Pioneer	517	-1	414.5	10	23.8		170	114	Dravco Inv. Inc.	65	-10	\$6.25	9	5.5	0		700	120	Free State Det.	700					
466	559	Draudent Inc. 50%	68		19.10	10	23.8		367	218	Draudent House	121	-1	151.50	11	13.0	23	4.6	675	224	DS Federal 50%	1250					
171	150	Draudent & London	121		15.2	6	38		572	65%	Draudent Corp.	520	-10	100.00	2	11.0			385	120	Harmony 50%	775	-3				
187	120	Draudent & London	126	-1	15.2	6	38											423	120	Lorraine 50%	775	-3					
1175	89	Edinburgh Am. Tst.	101	-1	10.45	10	24		177	12	EDMC Inv. 12.5%	17.5	-1	1.0	1.4	0.2	11.5		2274	120	Prec. Brand 50%	1250					
51	35	Edinburgh Fin. Tst.	42		10.72	10	24		178	12	EDMC Inv. 12.5%	17.5	-1	1.0	1.4	0.2	11.5		120	Edinburgh Fin. Tst.	1150						
120	103	Edinburgh Inv.	119	-1	13.25	10	39		150	142	Ed Spec Co. L.	22.5	-	0.8%	0	0.8	1.7			120	Edinburgh Fin. Tst.	1150					
34	23	Edmonton Inv. Wts.	21		11.25	10	39		118	115	Ed Spec. Bank 50%	55	-1	1.5%	0	0.8	1.7			2274	120	Prec. Stora 50%	1250				
142	113	Electra Inv. Tst.	140		13.7	11	38		100	97	Ed Spec. Corp. Red Prt.	94	-1	1.5%	0	0.8	1.7			115	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250					
304	254	Electr. & Gen.	300		1.5	10	17		115	115	Ed Spec. Corp. 50%	55	-1	1.5%	0	0.8	1.7			120	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250					
412	350	Energy Res. & Serv. 55	370		0.15	0.5	29		51	56	Ed Spec. Corp. 100%	46	-	1.0	0.3	3.1	5.0		120	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250						
520	524	Eng. & Dutch for PICU	229		0.07	0.5	29		220	120	Ed Spec. Corp. 100%	41	-	1.1	1.3	3.8	7.5		120	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250						
142	114	Eng. & Impl. Tst.	140		13.5	10	36		220	120	Ed Spec. Corp. 100%	41	-	1.0	0.3	3.1	5.0		120	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250						
49	33	End. Warrants	59		2.5	11	33		545	280	Ed Spec. Corp. 100%	545	-	1.9	4.1	18.4			120	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250						
111	92	Eng. & NY Tst.	159		1.5	10	36		545	280	Ed Spec. Corp. 100%	545	-	1.9	4.1	18.4			120	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250						
75	45	Eng. & Serv. Inv.	77		1.5	10	36		545	280	Ed Spec. Corp. 100%	545	-	1.9	4.1	18.4			120	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250						
290	234	Energy Consort 53	220	-1	1.5	10	32		166	114	Ed Spec. Corp. 2-5%	124.5	-1	1.0	1.3	12.3	29.0		120	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250						
508	508	Ent. Div. 50%	508		140	11	15		278	275	Ed Spec. Corp. Ann.	276	-	0.4%	0	0.8	1.7			120	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250					
156	130	European Assets DFO	152		10.00	10	27		231	196	Ed Spec. Corp. 50%	216	-	0.9%	1.7	3.2	32		120	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250						
97	76	F & C Alliance Inv.	92		1.5	10	27		118	94	Ed Spec. Corp. 100%	104	-	1.0	0.3	3.1	5.0		120	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250						
170	115	F & C Eurodistr.	124	-1	1.5	10	27		105	70	Ed Spec. Corp. Tech 50%	70	-	1.5%	0	0.8	1.7		120	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250						
164	120	F & C Pacific Inv. T.	140	-1	1.5	10	27		86	61	Ed Spec. Corp. Tech 50%	86	-	1.5%	0	0.8	1.7		120	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250						
242	182	Fidelity Inv. Tst.	262		16.9	10	41		23	19	Ed Spec. Corp. 100%	23	-	1.5%	0	0.8	1.7		120	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250						
413	338	Fidelity & Gen.	400		11.50	10	41		250	157	Ed Spec. Corp. 100%	157	-	1.5%	0	0.8	1.7		120	Ed Spec. Stora 50%	1250						
10	10	Fifth Charlotte Assets	104	-1	0.05	0	62											165	16.5	Ed Spec. Corp. 100%	165	-	1.5%	0			
292	242	Fifth Sci. Am.	291		1.50	10	44											190	140	Ed Spec. Corp. 100%	190	-	1.5%	0			
16	39	Fleetwing Japan Inc.	46	-1	1.50	10	44											190	140	Ed Spec. Corp. 100%	190	-	1.5%	0			
84	84	Do. Warrants	10	-1	1.50	10	44											165	16.5	Ed Spec. Corp. 100%	165	-	1.5%	0			
500	415	Fleming American	443		5.25	12	16		146	48	Ed Aberdeen Am. Pct. 12.5%	55	-	—	—	—	—		135	120	Afex Corp. SA 51.50	125		1.5%	0		
C55	510	Ed Tpc Crd 1999	514	-1	6.75	12	16		74	24	Ed Atlantic Engg 22%	26	-	—	—	—	—		221	875	Ang. Am. Coal 50%	810		1.5%	0		
226	225	Fleming Contractors 50%	228	-1	8.75	12	16		265	25	Ed Atlantic Inv. 12.5%	25	-	0.1%	0	0.8	1.7		211	500	Ang. Am. Gold 50%	540		1.5%	0		
256	250	Fleming Extrusion	295	-1	8.75	12	16		145	70	Ed Berkeley Expl.	95	-3	1.4	2.5	16.7			224	411	Anglo Gold 50%	1250		1.5%	0		
109	75	Fleming Far Eastern	84	-2	11.00	12	17		140	98	Ed Bridge Oil	95	-1	0.9	1.6	1.6			221	221	McLennan Gold 10%	11		1.5%	0		
113	100	Fleming Fledgling	112		12.25	12	17		122	12	Ed British Oil & Min.	14	-2	—	—	—	—		582	400	McCos Atom Corp.	80		1.5%	0		
540	540	Fleming Japanese	441		4.00	12	17		265	25	Ed Brit. Petroleum	575	+2	1.5	2.4	7.5	65		227	227	Cons. Gold Fields	475		1.5%	0		
121	121	Fleming Mercantile	122	-1	2.75	13	17		75	75	Ed Box Pct. II	75	-	5.6%	x	10.7	17.5		113	103	Genel RL	650		1.5%	0		
123	120	Fleming Overseas 1st	110	-1	2.75	13	17		245	187	Ed British Icp	225	-	1.5	2.4	6.4			217	475	Genov 40c	475		1.5%	0		
124	120	Fleming Tech Inv.	140	-1	2.75	13	17		128	67	Ed Britannia ASI	225	-	1.5	2.4	6.4			221	104	Gold & Base 12.5%	104		1.5%	0		
274	274	Fleming Universal	308		1.50	10	23		60	60	Ed Bryson Inv. 10%	82	-	1.5%	0	0.8	1.7		151	150	Gold Fields S.A. 12.5%	150		1.5%	0		
58	58	Foreign & Col.	600	-2	1.50	10	23		160	60	Ed Bryson Inv. 10%	82	-	1.5%	0	0.8	1.7		256	240	Gold & Base 12.5%	1250		1.5%	0		
55	55	Fulcrum Inc.	65		5.50	0	12.9		310	200	Ed Burmarr 1	302	-2	10.75	2.5	5.1	9.8		274	257	Wingate 25c	257		1.5%	0		
451	391	Fundwest Inv.	392	-1	6.30	0	23.1		284	273	Ed Cadomin Corp. 91.5%	284	-2	1.5	2.4	16.2	21.6		115	115	Wingate 25c	257		1.5%	0		
347	267	Fundwest Inv.	347	-1	6.30	0	23.1		175	91	Ed Cadomin Corp. 91.5%	175	-	1.5	2.4	16.2	21.6		115	115	Wingate 25c	257		1.5%	0		
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Saturday November 30 1985

## France tests steel aid limits

By David Housego in Paris

THE FRENCH Government yesterday pushed up against the limits of the EEC's clampdown on steel subsidies with a two-year FF 20bn (£1.5bn) aid programme for its troubled steel producers.

Sacilor and Usinor, the two French state-owned steel groups, will be provided with new capital in the shape of bond issues to which the government is the only subscriber. Some FF 10bn will be paid by the end of next year, with a further FF 4bn next year and FF 6bn in 1987.

The plan is expected to be scrutinised closely in Brussels because the Community's steel code rules out the payment of operating subsidies beyond the end of this year. It allows payments for cutting production capacity in 1986 but after that steel producers should be self-supporting.

European Commission officials in Brussels yesterday described the French plan as "borderline" but suspended final judgment until they had seen the full proposals.

France is trying to balance the obligation to abide by Community rules with limitations on government spending which prevent it paying out the full FF 20bn before the Community deadline.

Under yesterday's proposals Sacilor will receive FF 12.8bn and Usinor FF 7.8bn. The division reflects the government's decision to give priority to upgrading Usinor's large coastal flat products rolling mill at Dunkerque. Sacilor, the higher cost producer based in Lorraine in eastern France, has been hoping for FF 15bn of the FF 20bn of funds.

The convertible bonds to be issued by the two groups will be subscribed to by the government's steel industry intervention fund (Fonds d'Intervention Siderurgique) and carry a minimal interest rate of about 0.1 per cent.

An initial FF 10bn — split evenly between the two groups — will be used to write off part of their existing debt before the end of the year.

In 1986 Sacilor will be able to draw on FF 3.3bn of the bond and Usinor FF 700m. The following year Sacilor will draw a further FF 4.5bn and Usinor FF 1.5bn.

Sacilor will be expected to cover out of the funds allocated to it the losses of Unimetal and Ascometal, the engineering and special steel subsidiaries jointly owned by the two groups and managed by Sacilor.

The two French groups expect to run up combined losses this year of about FF 7bn.

The EEC is already investigating the sharp fall in European steel prices.

French prices where markets for some key products have been sluggish for several months, are among the lowest in Europe.

British steel industry officials say the country's producers have been maintaining output and selling surpluses elsewhere in the EEC, pulling down prices, particularly in the UK and West Germany.

### CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISES			
ASDA-MFI	155 + 10		
BAT Inds	283 + 12		
Blundell-Perniglaze	198 + 22		
British Aerospace	481 + 11		
British Benzol	35 + 34		
British Home Stores	432 + 18		
Careless Capel	108 + 10		
Connells Est Agents	172 + 10		
Dee Corp	285 + 13		
Erskine House	148 + 13		
Grattan	396 + 16		
GUS A	905 + 13		
Imperial Group	244 + 6		
FALLS		Indi Scot Energy ... 150 - 10	

### WORLDWIDE WEATHER

Y'day	midday	midday	midday
°C	°F	°C	°F
Ajaccio F 14 - 57	Dallas C 6 43	Madeira F 20 68	Perth F 22 72
Algiers F 1 - 5	Dublin C 11 52	Madrid C 5 41	Prague F -1 30
Amman S 19 36	Edinburgh C 17 60	Malta S 13 55	Reykjavik F -3 27
Athens S 19 36	Faro C 15 59	Malta S 17 63	Rhodes F 17 63
Bahrain S 14 57	Florence F 12 54	M'sharat C 3 15	Rio 'O C 15 59
Beruit S 3 37	Frankf. C 1 34	Melbne. C 18 64	Salzburg C 1 - 30
Belfast F 4 28	Gibraltar F 16 51	Mex. C 18 64	Sassago R 12 54
Berg. F 4 28	Glasgow F 13 52	Miami F 29 84	Singap. F 29 84
Brixton F 13 55	Grenoble F 13 52	Montev. C 1 34	S'pore S 27 81
Bulg. C 0 32	Helsinki S 13 52	Montr. C -5 23	Stockh. S 0 34
Brussels F 2 36	H. Kong C 20 68	Moscow F -1 24	Tokyo S 1 34
Bombay S 32 80	Innsbrk. S -4 32	Nairobi S 26 79	Sydney C 21 70
Borde. F 9 48	Inverness S -1 30	Naples S 13 55	Tanger F 19 68
Boulog. N	I.O.Mari S 5 41	Nassau F 28 82	Tel Aviv S 28 79
Brusel. C 4 39	Juba S 18 50	Newcas. F 22 72	Tokyo S 2 36
Budapl. F 1 34	Jurgen R 18 50	Toronto C 2 36	Tunis F 17 63
Burn. S 3 37	Joh'burg F 23 73	Turks I. S 1 34	Venice F 10 50
Cairo —	L. Plma. F 22 72	Nice F 11 52	Velencia F 10 50
Calif. R 3 37	Lisbon C 11 52	Nicosia S 21 70	Venice S 4 33
Can. T. S 31 80	Locarno F 6 43	Oporto C 14 57	Vienna S 4 33
Chicago C 39 80	London F 4 39	Ostia S 3 27	Warsaw C -1 30
Cologn. F 4 39	London F 4 39	Pans S 3 37	Zurich Sn -1 30
Connig. S -1 30	L. Ang. R 18 50	Poking S 2 36	
Corfu S 16 61	Luxemb. Sn -1 30		

By GUY DE JONQUIERES

## Oftel to review BT pricing policy

By GUY DE JONQUIERES

THE OFFICE of Telecommunications (Oftel) has launched a review of British Telecom's pricing policies in response to public complaints about the size of its recent tariff increases.

Professor Bryan Carsberg, Oftel's director-general, has told Dr Onnagh McDonald, MP for Thurrock and Labour's spokesman on Treasury and Civil Service affairs, in a letter that he is considering how far he can apply more public pressure on BT's future policy.

He did not expect to be able to force BT to revoke tariff changes already in effect. Oftel has already approved BT's latest tariff, averaging 3.7 per cent on a range of inland services,

which took effect on November 1.

But Prof Carsberg indicated yesterday that the review might lead Oftel to publish more detailed guidelines for applying the regulatory formula governing BT's tariff increases.

If the formula were found not to be working properly, he would consider amending it in future by making a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

He also expected to make such a reference to settle the terms on which BT's prices would be regulated after 1989, when the present five-year arrangements are due to expire. BT refused to comment on his remarks yesterday.

Prof Carsberg said in his letter to Dr McDonald that renegotiation of the arrangements in 1989 was "an important opportunity to pass on to consumers the benefits of additional efficiencies gained in telecommunications operations."

The existing tariff formula limits the average annual rise in BT's charges for most inland services to 3 percentage points below the rate of retail price inflation. But it allows much bigger increases for individual services.

On November 1 BT raised prices of some services by more than 9 per cent, but lowered others. Oftel has received many complaints that the increases were excessive in

view of BT's high profits, which rose 39 per cent in the three months to the end of June, compared with the same period a year before.

BT's return on capital was not exceptionally high by the standards of other large British companies, said Prof Carsberg.

But the Oftel review would consider what to do if the tariff formula ever permitted a rise to unacceptable levels in BT's rate of return.

The review would also cover the "re-balancing" of BT's tariffs to meet competition. Oftel would not allow BT to carry to unreasonable lengths its policy of raising residential charges while lowering prices for profitable business services.

## Sinclair seeking £10m after pre-tax loss

By JASON CRISP

SINCLAIR RESEARCH, the troubled home computer company, is seeking £10m in external finance after a pre-tax loss of £18.3m in the year to March. Sales, at £102.8m, were 32 per cent up on the previous year, when it had made a pre-tax profit of £14.3m.

Sir Clive Sinclair, founder and chairman, said the company's financial adviser, N M Rothschild, was trying to raise the money, which is needed for working capital and new product launches next year. He said he expected investors would be a combination of organisations and wealthy individuals.

In addition Sir Clive said he was close to raising over £5m from a group of venture capi-

talists for a new company to make wafer scale integration semiconductors. This ambitious project, first suggested earlier in the year, is to put together a large number of microchips on a single piece of silicon.

Sinclair Research will have a stake in the company, and the deal is expected to be concluded near Christmas, Sir Clive said. Initial production would be subcontracted and the company would have to raise substantial sums when it started its own production, probably in three years' time.

The delayed accounts received by shareholders yesterday show the company made a small operating profit of £4m. The losses resulted from excep-

tional items of £22.7m, mainly debts owed it by Prism, the home computer distributor which collapsed earlier this year.

Like its competitor Acorn Computers, Sinclair ran into serious financial trouble earlier this year because of very high stocks and little from manufacturers who were left with large numbers of home computers.

The subsequent price war has meant Sinclair has had to write down its stocks by £17.5m. Even so stocks were still put at £21.3m at the year end. Completed products accounted for almost £20m of that—more than double the previous year.

In addition Sinclair Research has made provisions of £3.7m for surplus commitments to buy components and £1.6m for

Background, Page 4

## Singapore faces collapse of public company

By CHRIS SHERWELL IN SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE faces the prospect of its first ever collapse of a public company following the failure yesterday of bank creditors of Pan-Electric Industries and a key shareholder to agree the final terms of a rescue for the debt-ridden company, until recently a favourite of speculators on Singapore's Stock Exchange.

The affair, at the heart of a 10-day crisis which has already made deep inroads into stock market confidence, is expected to provide a pretext for greater government regulation of the Singapore market, Asia's third biggest after Tokyo and Hong Kong, since it has thrown into jeopardy the survival of several local stockbroking firms.

Pan-Electric, an industrial and property company, has debts of at least \$400m (£129.4m).

The Straits Times industrial index fell further 3.62 points yesterday to a three-year low of 691.81—a level still artificially buoyed by the current suspension of trading in Pan-Electric shares, which form one

of the 30 components of the index.

The Pan-Electric crisis has also affected James Capel, the London broker. It is believed to have paid \$227m to one Singapore securities firm after Pan-Electric failed to stand by a guarantee on a transaction arranged by that firm.

It has been discovered that Pan-Electric had committed itself to guaranteeing forward dealings in its own shares and those of some associated companies on a scale which remains unknown. Capel is understood to have been caught in the middle of a three-way transaction involving the local broker and Orange Grove Property, a Pan-Electric subsidiary.

The local broker is believed to have been one party in this deal while the other reneged, although ostensibly backed by Pan-Electric. In London, Capel executives described the exposure of their firm as a "minor involvement".

In addition to local stockbrokers, another Singapore-listed company has been put at risk by the crisis. Shares in Growth Industrial Holdings were suspended on November 19 along with those of Pan-Electric, in which it has a 31.6 per cent stake.

This followed the apparent failure by Pan-Electric to meet a \$57.5m debt repayment the previous day. Trading was also suspended in Sigma International — another Singapore company, through which Mr Tan Koon Swan, a Malaysian entrepreneur and politician, holds a 22.6 per cent stake in Pan-Electric.

Since then, a series of meetings between the bank creditors, most of them foreign, and advisers to Mr Tan have failed to secure a bail-out.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore, the powerful regulatory agency for the country's financial markets, stepped in and had brought about an agreement in principle between the banks and Mr Tan.

However, disagreements among the banks—notably between those with secured loans to those without—added to a common nervousness over the state of the company as more information surfaced on forward share contracts and its cash flow position.

Forward transactions in Pan-Electric shares have been undertaken for at least a year, and are likely to prove difficult to fulfil. Its share price plummeted to \$1.46 at the suspension from a peak of \$33.36.

The company favours selling a stake of just under 30 per cent to Sikorsky, the helicopter subsidiary of United Technologies of the US.

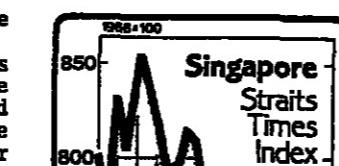
Agusta, however, is banking on Westland's collaboration in the joint development of its A129 anti-tank helicopter.

The British Army is interested in buying the improved version of the A129, which in its present version has been ordered only by the Italian army. Sikorsky has its own rival to the A129.

Any solution to the Westland problem which also involved Aerospatiale and Messerschmitt would be welcome by Italy, especially if accompanied by a rationalisation of the respective companies' products. The French and West German companies are jointly working on a rival to the A129, despite requests by Italy to abandon it or merge it with the A129.

Agusta itself is weak financially and would have to have government backing for it to help Westland. It lost £10.5m (£48m) last year on sales of £55.2m and is expecting another big loss this year.

Westland's severe financial problems centre on its lack of work over the next few years before it begins production of



# WEEKEND FT

Saturday November 30 1985

MARKETS • FINANCE & THE FAMILY • PROPERTY • TRAVEL • MOTORING • DIVERSIONS • HOW TO SPEND IT • BOOKS • ARTS • TV

## The awakening of Channel Snore

Channel 4 was three years old this month. Godfrey Hodgson looks at Britain's different, but not very different, television.

**A** SERIES of seven documentaries called *The Writing on the Wall* is now running on Channel Four. It traces the history of British politics from the mid-1960s, when Labour was "the natural party of government" until the early 1980s when, according to executive producer (and former Labour MP) Phillip Whitehead, British politics was fixed in "a pattern of pessimism, concern on the Right about fallen standards, and on the Left about betrayed ideals."

It is a superb example of a current affairs documentary researched meticulously and put together with wit and a bounding sense of the lost opportunities of the 1970s. It is television made by professionals for professionals; just what the idealists inside the business who dreamt up the concept of C4 — and Whitehead was one of them — wanted from a new channel.

On its third birthday, all things considered, C4 is riding high. The crisis days of the launch, just three years ago, of Channel Snore and Channel Snore have been forgotten. Audience share is satisfactory and revenue is approaching the point where the channel is secure from internal pressures to change.

Strangely, it is C4's novel organisation as a television publisher, widely admired from the outside, that is causing headaches at headquarters in Charlotte Street, central London, and sending waves of gloom through at least some of the independent producers who once saw the station as a cross between the New Jerusalem and the Comstock Lode. Oddly enough, it is the most successful independents like Brook Productions, makers of *The Writing on the Wall*, which have shown up the problem first.

In financial terms, C4 is approaching the break-even point from one point of view, while from another it has still got a long way to go. The apparent paradox is explained by the way the channel gets its revenue. Its funds come from subscriptions paid to the IBA by the ITV companies — Thames, Granada, London Weekend and the rest — out of the total revenue they collect from selling advertising both on ITV and C4. This year, the subscription is running at the rate of just under £130m — not counting another £32m for Welsh Channel Four — up from £105m in 1983-84.

According to Peter Rogers, the IBA's finance director and a director of C4, its percentages of the independent (non-BBC) audience and of the total pool of advertising revenue are "converging." He believes the channel is "safe from the argument that it cannot be afforded, or that it ought to be restructured for business or financial reasons."

Mr Rogers admits, though, that a substantial proportion of the money that is spent on C4 advertising is money that could have been spent on ITV if the latter did not exist. He guesses that half of C4's revenue has been floated in a British context in 1983-84.

in ITV would argue that the proportion is even higher.

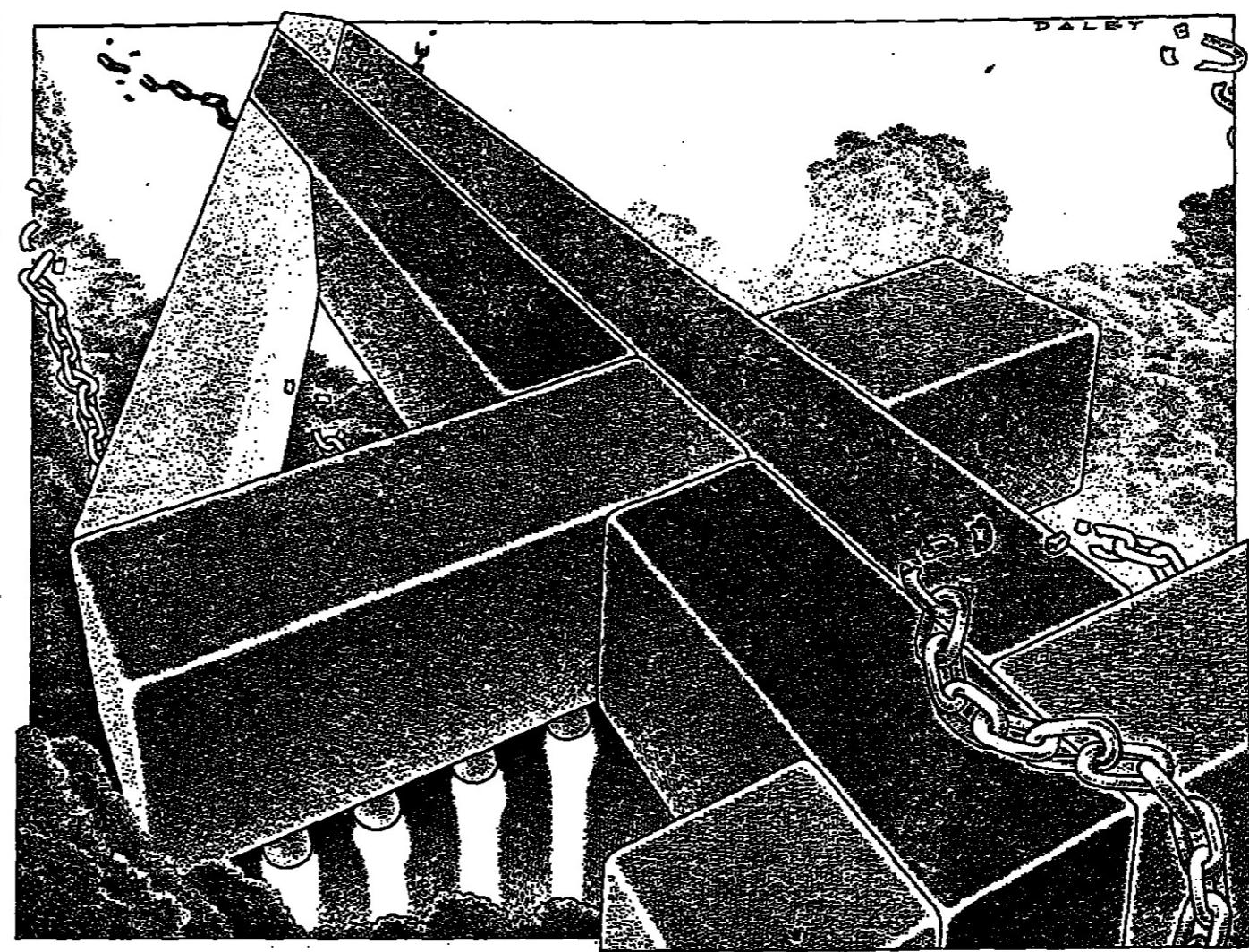
What is clear, however, is that C4 is attracting enough viewers to appeal to advertisers, especially those who want to reach specialist audiences. According to a February 1985 survey by Taylor Nelson, C4's share of the audience has grown from 13.6 per cent last year to 16.5 per cent. According to Saatchi and Saatchi's research, 91 per cent of all adults tune in to C4 at least once a month. The corollary is, of course, that C4's audience is far less different from that of ITV — or indeed, the television audience as a whole — than it was when the channel started with an uncertain toot on the trumpet three years ago.

You can take that any way you please. You can say that it means an end to the image C4 presented at first as the channel for super-minorities (as the prejudiced said, for black lesbian single parents). Conversely, the channel is no longer able to claim, as it sought to do to potential advertisers, that it was able uniquely to deliver the young, the single and the treddy.

If the audience has regressed towards the mean — in the statistical sense — so, too, has the programming. Many of those who work there would deny fiercely, but it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that, in many ways, C4 has emerged from its initial difficulties by rowing back towards the middle of the stream. Instead of aiming at "minorities," the channel has done best when it did traditional television things, and did them more intelligently. The most successful programme included intelligent soap opera in *Brookside* and intelligent drama series as in *The Price*.

The channel's controller, Jeremy Isaacs, does not deny this. He points out that as far back as 1979, in a lecture in Edinburgh, he predicted that a fourth channel would be — as he himself summarised it last week — "different, but not very different." No wonder both Isaacs and Justin Dukes, the managing director, now sound reasonably pleased with how things have turned out after those first nightmare days. Then, Isaacs found himself in a blazing row with the IBA over a programme called *Animals*, and Dukes had to wrestle with the consequences of a dispute between the IBA and Equity that crippled advertising for almost two years.

It is increasingly fashionable in the industry to talk of the C4 "television publisher" concept as a model for the future development of both the BBC and ITV. Yet, the central idea — of a television channel that would "publish" programmes made by outsiders rather than produce its own, like the BBC and ITV — is not new. The three giant commercial networks in New York, for example, produce little of their own material except news and sport; the rest is bought from independents, mostly of them in Los Angeles. But the idea first part to C4's success, the crucial



by Anthony Smith, a former editor of the BBC's flagship *Twenty-four Hours*, later a media guru at St Antony's College, Oxford, and now the director of the British Film Institute.

The way it works at C4 is that commissioning editors buy material from independent contractors. These may be the big ITV programme companies, such as Granada or Thames, or independents. Some of these such as Brookside Productions, Brook Productions or Diverse Productions, all of which received more than £1m from C4 in 1984-85, are substantial enterprises. Others are no more than a shell inhabited by an enterprising young producer who has succeeded in selling an idea to one of the commissioning editors.

Sometimes, the latter accept ideas from independent producers; sometimes, the editors approach a producer with an idea.

In 1984-85, a total of 990 hours (out of 3,593 transmitted) was commissioned and made by the ITV companies, and 882 hours by independents. Both, incidentally, were exceeded by far as providers for the channel by acquired material such as sports and feature films, old and new, American and foreign.

The irony is that at the very same moment when this publishing idea is so much in the ascendant, thanks in large part to C4's success, the crucial

mechanism of the channel as a publisher — namely, the commissioning process — is being called sharply into question. It is the focus of deep debate at Charlotte Street and of criticism (even resentment) from some of the independent producers on whom the commissioning process depends.

There are more particular ironies about the case of *The Writing on the Wall*. The managing director of Brook Productions, which also produced the C4 current affairs programme *A Week in Politics*, is David Elstein, who has been associated closely with Isaacs since the 1960s, and Whitehead worked with Isaacs on *Panorama* even earlier. The first programme in the C4 series was produced by Cate Haste, a veteran Granada producer and the wife of London Weekend arts presenter Melvyn Bragg, who is Whitehead's oldest friend.

"Aha!" you might be tempted to murmur. "The old pals act at work!" In this instance, cynicism would be utterly misplaced for Brook Productions has just lost the contract to produce *A Week in Politics*. Moreover, according to Elstein, it will have to split up into its component parts, with, say, Whitehead forming one production company to make documentaries, Elstein concentrating on his other company, Prime Time, and their third partner going his own way. Although Elstein maintains he

is losing no sleep over the prospect, it is a notable fall for perhaps the most successful current affairs enterprise fostered by the C4 system.

Elstein blames C4's method of awarding contracts for his company's problems. He says it does not give those specialising in current affairs the sort of stability they need. He also charges the channel with using its position as, in effect, the only customer for independently produced broadcast current affairs television in Britain, to force costs down to the point where production becomes uneconomic.

Last spring, when negotiations were going on about the future of Brook's contract for *A Week in Politics*, Elstein wrote a letter in which he argued that C4 ought either to pay for a minimum level of overhead — say, a lease on an office, basic office equipment, and the salaries of an accountant, a secretary and a receptionist — to maintain the core of certain selected companies producing specialist programmes, for example in current affairs, or offer a commitment to a certain level of programming.

The letter touched off a considerable debate inside C4. Some commissioning editors, and some directors, thought Elstein had a point. After all, how can you do successful television journalism without some assurance you will be able

to plan ahead? Others were worried deeply at the suggestion they might be setting up a privileged inner ring of companies to which C4 would eventually find itself so committed that its central commitment — to innovation, to being "different" — would be lost.

"There is a problem," concedes Liz Forgan who, as the senior commissioning editor for current affairs, had to take the hard decisions about *A Week in Politics* and make the first response to the Elstein proposition. "It is an argument between the commitment to constant innovation versus the argument that some kinds of work are terribly hard to do unless you have some measure of permanence. But the question is: how much permanence? We have come down on the side of a constant supply of innovation for change and innovation."

Whatever the merits of the argument — and there are merits on both sides — C4 has now come down firmly against Elstein's plea for continuity, and in favour of the commitment to innovation.

There are certain contracts — to ITN to produce the news, for example, or for the serial *Brookside*, the producers of which have bought several houses in a Mersey-side suburb in which to shoot — where the capital investment involved has been so heavy that, in effect though not in theory, they are guaranteed a substantial life. But with those few exceptions, the C4 board has endorsed the position of Isaacs and the majority of the commissioning editors: that no one's contract is sacrosanct, and most will be for finite periods.

By applying that decision even against Brook, whose members are his oldest and closest friends, Isaacs has signalled that there will be no favourites as well as dramatising his commitment to innovation. Indeed, the intention is to enforce change, even in commissioning editors.

It is almost as if Isaacs, like Trotsky, has committed himself to permanent revolution. Yet the commitment is that is essentially different from the BBC's traditional purpose. It is often said that C4 is "the last Reithian channel" and so it may well be in the sense that the expansion of choice in television of the future will come from new technology, not from a fifth or sixth centralised national station. But Isaacs' view of his audience is that of a multitude of consumers, each avid for choice, not Lord Reith's vision of a family or a flock to be fed a judicious mixture of information, education and entertainment.

That does not mean that he and his colleagues are not trying to do something that is essentially different from the BBC's traditional purpose. It is often said that C4 is "the last Reithian channel" and so it may well be in the sense that the expansion of choice in television of the future will come from new technology, not from a fifth or sixth centralised national station. But Isaacs' view of his audience is that of a multitude of consumers, each avid for choice, not Lord Reith's vision of a family or a flock to be fed a judicious mixture of information, education and entertainment.

As he put it to me: "In contradistinction to the BBC, it is a pluralistic view we have. You cannot set out to be the nation's television any more." And he paraphrased Dean Acheson's cruel epigram about Britain: "The BBC," he said, "has lost an empire, and not yet found a role." Instead of building a rival empire, he suggested, his job was "to cater for all of the people some of the time."

### The Long View

## Nice cold weather for Budget-making



The oil market is in a jumpy state and while there is an even chance of a heavy price fall the Chancellor is likely to adopt a stonewalling, say-nothing stance, says Anthony Harris

**AN ORTHOPAEDIC** surgeon who was a bit of a legend in the hunting field used to yearn for really cold weather. "It's an ill frost that blows nobody any good," he would say; and as soon as he had pulled on his boots, he would alert his theatre staff of the broken collarbones to come.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, must feel a bit like that these days, for a hard winter would do wonders for his revenues too. The oil market is in a jumpy state at the moment. Stocks are low because the oil majors are still betting on lower prices next year; but because stocks are low, a cold snap quickly pushes up spot prices and output.

This winter bulge in oil company revenues could give the Chancellor quite a nice fiscal cushion for the first half of the 1986-87 financial year, because although petroleum revenue tax is paid monthly it is assessed on the previous half-year's performance; and the corporation tax comes in later still. A nice fat cushion is just what the Chancellor may need before he comes to next year's Autumn Statement.

The danger against which he may need protection is the possibility that the oil price will fall out of bed next summer. Anyone who reads this year's Autumn Statement in detail may be under the comfortable illusion that this is already provided for in the reduced projection for oil revenue, but it is not. This allows for some softening, together with the recent rise in sterling against the dollar; but it does not allow for a real shake-out.

This is a real possibility, though, as Sheikh Yamani keeps reminding us. His warnings, it is true, are more like threats than forecasts. He is still pretty angry with non-Opec producers in general and ourselves in par-

ticular, for refusing to help stabilise the market last summer and the pleasure of giving the Chancellor a few uneasy nights must be irresistible.

However, the low level of stocks does tell us that the market is expecting a fall, whatever spot prices may be doing now;

and the oil majors are

apparently planning on the basis that a fall heavy enough to be called a collapse is something like an everyday chance.

It is liable to be a war of nerves, in any case. Suppose first that the price is just soft, as the Autumn Statement seems to assume; the major refiners will then be engaged in

a game of chicken to see who

can get the timing right on re-

stocking. If their nerve holds

— and it will very probably hold

if there is any real prospect

of peace in the Gulf, which in

turn depends on the health of Ayatollah Khomeini

— then the buck passes to Mr Paul Volcker at the US Federal Reserve Board.

The danger here is mainly to

the Texas and Oklahoma banks,

which are dreadfully exposed

to the oil sector. The market

is already discounting some

trouble here, but there is still

a borderline between containing

the real trouble and a real financial

crisis. Informed American

friends tell me that if the price

threatens to fall below \$22 a barrel, someone will have to press the red button.

The American fall-back posi-

tion is an oil import tax, which

would put a floor under the

prices received by US produc-

ers; but since this would pre-

vent lower prices from

stimulating demand in what is

by far the world's biggest oil

market, this action would make

prices even softer outside the

US. The recent Yamani warn-

ings would then look very like

sober forecasts.

This is hardly appealing to

Mr Lawson as an ambitious

politician and he could plausibly

argue for another do-

nothing approach. If the drop

in oil prices is regarded as

purely temporary — a typical

market overshoot, which will

correct itself as soon as serious

stock-rebuilding begins — then

it would seem sensible to take

the strain on the borrowing

requirement, just as we took

the strain on the financial

strain of the coal strike. Strategy is about

underlying trends, not tem-

porary bumps.

This is especially tempting if

the market still looks stable

next March. Mr Lawson could

hardly talk of providing against

a collapse in oil prices (or the

dollar, for that matter) without

being accused of helping to

provoke it. Much better keep

quiet; and meanwhile, brush

off any questions about fiscal

strategy with more than usual

brusqueness. Which is what

Mr Lawson did in the Treasury

## MARKETS

# Rival bid for BHS could mar Habitat's happiness

ON MONDAY, when Mr David Cassidy of BHS said that however he turned his Rubic cube it came up with the name Habitat, he gave the stores sector and the market overall the kind of shove that helped push respective indices to record levels.

For after the bitterness of the battles over control of Debenhams and Harrods earlier this year, Habitat/Mothercare and BHS announced a happy families-style merger through the formation of a new holding company.

As the week was ending, however, BHS shares were leaping ahead of the 380p to 400p price implicit in the holding company arrangement given a Habitat share price in the 540p to 550p range. And on the market, rumours were rife that a bidder may be about to enter the scene.

In the proposed scheme BHS will constitute 55 per cent of British Habitat, or whatever the new holding company is called, and Sir Terence Conran's shareholders will have the rest. Sir Terence will be chairman and chief executive of a 900-store group, which will have a market capitalisation of over £1.5bn, sales of about £1bn and will employ more than 30,000 staff.

Both companies recently produced interim results. The £16.6m pre-tax (excluding property income) on sales of £236m from BHS was below the City's expectations. The best that could be said at the time of the announcement was that final judgment on whether or not the transformation of the stock from one that travelled at a discount to the sector with a prospective rating of 15, to a mainstream-rated performer, would have to wait.

On Monday Habitat announced half-year results of £16.1m pre-tax on sales of £226m, which supported forecasts of 45p for the year and a prospective rating three points higher than its partner-to-be.

When the brokers did a few quick sums on the merged group they came up with a prospective rating of 21 on forecast profits of £115m for the year to March 1986.

Initially, on this forecast but latterly, on speculation of a fresh bid, BHS's shares moved up sharply, from 380p to 430p over the week. BHS shares will be exchanged on a one for one basis with those of the proposed holding company according to the merger scheme.

For Habitat a rating similar to that forecast on the merger was already reflected in the group's price and the shares therefore naturally moved up more modestly, from 520p to 540p.

The merger proposal has brought BHS's rating up to something like the stores sector average of 21 times earnings.

The justification (and no doubt this is what any bidder will also be looking at) has to be that while much has been done to improve management and the look of the group's stores in the past couple of years, future growth depended on boosting sales above the very low £200 per square foot level. This, for comparison, is only half that of Marks & Spencer.

Also on Monday came the news that Imperial Group was in merger discussions with United Biscuits. While no terms have yet been announced the City is expecting some 23p a share for United and anything much short of this could see

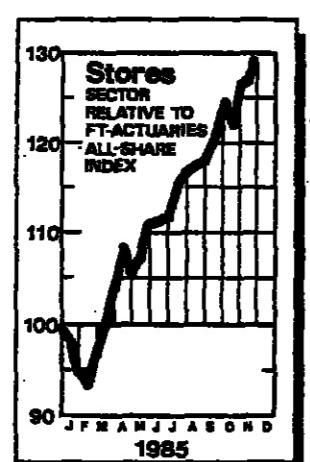
## London

other bidders entering the fray.

Unlike the BHS-Habitat plan, which is surely aimed at building a combined group big enough to do battle on the high streets with the majors, the Marks-United move looks more defensive in posture.

After its sale of Howard Johnson, Imperial, Britain's sixth largest brewer and leading cigarette producer, has some £200m in cash and reduced debts must be a bit vulnerable. Barclay Brothers have been spending fairly freely building up a stake in the group and the market has knocked over again after its knockback over Rumsby this week, as an interested party.

The announcement of the terms with United could well flush out a contender for Imps given its present modest rating of only 10 times prospective



earnings on forecasts of £255m for the year to October 1985.

United, the world's largest biscuit maker, is also not without its fans — especially in the US. The chance to acquire some strong brands may be too good to pass up for an American food major, especially if it involves a company with substantial US interests.

Since the talks announcement,

United's shares have put on some 40p, taking the rating on a forecast of £102m for 1985 to 14 times earnings — close to the market's idea of the right buy out multiple.

Hanging also in the air is the possibility that a merger plan between Imps and United may be referred to the Monopolies Commission. Concentration in the snacks market might just tip the balance towards such a move. Delay would hardly suit either party if defence is the key motive for the talks.

The bigger than expected £4.6m pre-tax loss by Apricot Computers announced on Tuesday was overshadowed by the business computer company's retrenchment plans. About 20 per cent of the UK staff are to go and the West German subsidiary has been closed.

Profit forecasts for the year to March 1986 show earnings of little more than 1p a share, producing a most impressive multiple that will, however, fool nobody.

It was the portable machine that did most of the damage, aided and abetted by the low margins on the sub-£1,000 single disc-drive computers. All these models are to go as part of a range reduction programme that sits alongside the staff cuts and closures.

The immediate response of the market to this package of announcements was to mark the shares up 5p to 65p but second thoughts have trimmed away all this gain. By the end of the week the shares were back down to the level of the sub-60p net book value.

With stocks of less than two months in hand and the prospect of being cash generating in 1986, Apricot could look like a classic recovery stock to some. Certainly the shares are a very long way off the 230p plus levels seen in late 1984.

Perhaps there's another Olivetti waiting in the wings with some cash to spend; or perhaps the middle of the market is the worst place to be when the bottom drops out from underneath you.

A likeable and unassuming Yorkshireman, Mr Sykes is known and respected in the City for his shrewd and hard-nosed business approach.

His industrial experience is broad. After five years as an articled clerk with accountant Thomson McLintock, he began his corporate career as treasurer and later managing director (finance) of the Steelkey Industrial conglomerate. He then became finance director with Simon Engineering and assistant group managing director with the Bath and Portland Group. Since 1977, he has been a non-executive director of Harris Queensway.

The roots of Thermal Scientific and Technical Component Industries go back to 1977 when

fold to the group structure.

The rapid increase in its earnings has produced a rise in its share price from 83p at the placing in July 1983 to about 140p now after a two-for-five rights issue earlier this year.

Interim results due out in December are unlikely to disappoint and the group looks set for a move to the main market next year.

Technical Component Industries, the placing of which at 130p, was announced on Wednesday, has a similar structure to that of Thermal Scientific in that it is the newly-created holding company for a Bamford Hall Fasteners, a stainless steel fastener manufacturer.

Stainless Steel Fasteners

was founded in 1965 as a mass producer of standard nuts and

bolts, but under the stewardship of Mr Sykes and Bill Spurr, the managing director he installed, it has turned into a specialist producer of high performance fasteners for use in hostile environments where, for instance, there are extremes of temperature or corrosive conditions.

In 1983, one of Bamford Hall's companies, Carboline Furnaces, had reached the stage where Mr Sykes felt it was ready for the market. So, he floated it off, merging it along the way with Stanton Redcroft which he acquired from GEC.

Reborn as Thermal Scientific, this company has grown in the short time since its birth to the point where it can claim justifiably to be one of the world's leading thermal technology groups. In doing so, it has demonstrated a voracious appetite for acquisitions, adding two US and two UK companies (one of them from the Bamford Hall

Fasteners

fastener

## Two sides of a golden coin

"LEAVING aside politics," he began. "You can't," I replied. "Yes, but if you could," he persisted. "you would wonder if investment in South Africa is such a bad bet when you see results like those from Anglo American."

"Big Anglo covers most aspects of the country's economy. Mainly mining of course, but there's also industrial and commercial interests—finance and insurance, oil, gas and property."

"So," he demanded, "if the South African economy is, in such bad shape, how is it that Anglo turned in best-ever profits of R880.4m in the year to March 31; has just announced a 30 per cent advance to R452.4m in earnings for the first half of the present year; and has said that the results for the full year should show a similar improvement?"

At this stage, we do not have the breakdown of the contribution of the group's various sectors to the latest profits. However, the good result reflects two major elements. They are the boost to income provided by the conversion of high value US dollar sales—notably of gold—into cheap rands, and the good performance in both domestic and export markets of the group's important coal side.

### Mining

A dramatic illustration of the benefit to Anglo of the weak rand is given by the price of gold. In the first half of this year it fell 43.6 per cent to \$310 an ounce, but the rand equivalent rose by no less than 79 per cent to R623 an ounce.

Gold mine dividends have rebounded accordingly. The group's Western Holdings, for example, recently declared a final dividend for the year to October 30 of 490 cents. This compared with only 315 cents a year ago.

The other side of the coin is that for a UK investor the latest increased final dividend from Western Holdings was worth only 126p at ruling exchange rates, where as last year's lower dividend in South African currency was equivalent to 147p at that time.

There is not much profit in that for a non-South African investor. Still, many of them have been wondering if the

time has come to move back in a modest way into South African gold shares after the market's long decline.

It was noticeable that all shares involved in the big Orange Free State merger went ahead when dealings were resumed on Monday.

South African investors have been big buyers of the country's gold shares. Apart from the fact that they are not allowed to move their money out of the Republic, investment in high-paying domestic gold mines makes a lot of sense to them, particularly as a hedge against rising inflation.

There's the rub. South Africa's economy is going through a difficult time and it is not getting any better. So, a UK investor hoping to make a capital gain on the back of South African buying is taking quite a chance, even at today's share prices and yields—and leaving aside politics.

It is not only South Africa that has a weak currency of course. The Australian dollar is poorly and likely to remain so for some time, according to Bill Galbraith, the man who largely pioneered the revival of activity in Western Australia's Eastern Goldfields with his Carr Boyd Minerals and associated Hill Minerals.

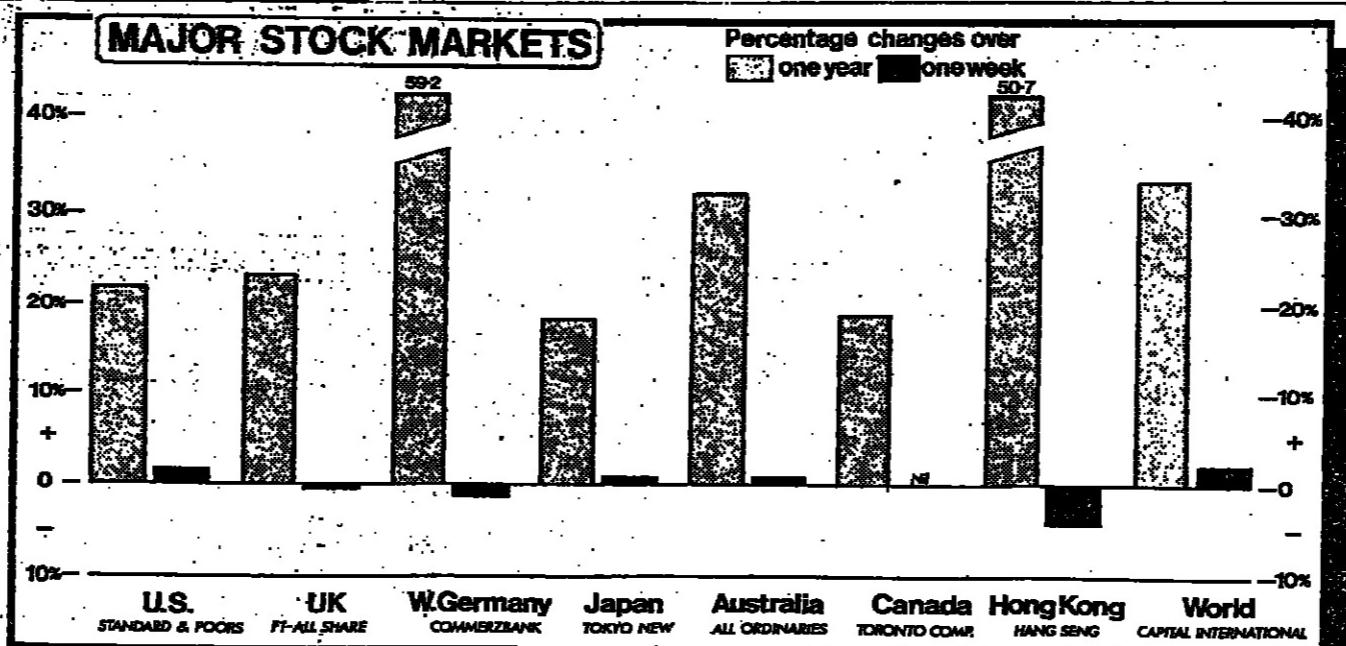
At the moment, he is particularly excited about the potential for his group's multispectral scanner system, which will greatly assist prospectors in spotting new mineral deposits. It can also pick up indications of oil and gas, which brings a sparkle to the Galbraith eye.

This does not affect his ambition to open up further gold mines in the Eastern Goldfields. Nor will he admit that the game is now becoming played out there, but he is also looking to new gold areas. Queensland excites his interest and so does Indonesia.

So far, the Carr Boyd camp has not made its mark in Indonesia, but the country is seeing the beginnings of a gold rush. Among those looking at the potential are the Rio Tinto Zinc group's CRA.

This company has just accepted Australia's Clarence Petroleum and New Zealand Goldfields Investments as joint partners holding 35 per cent of its two gold exploration prospects in Kalimantan.

Kenneth Marston



## Bouncing back from Black Friday

THE LISTING in recent months of companies with names like Desperado Resources, Pirate Gold Corporation, Noize Petroleum and Golden Chance Resources is evidence that the Vancouver Stock Exchange retains some of the spice that comes from trading more than 2,000 highly speculative "penny stocks".

But the VSE is working hard to dispel its reputation as a stock casino. In particular, it has tried to reverse damage done by the sudden fall in prices during October 1984 which led to allegations of a stock manipulation racket and questions about the exchange's ability to police the colourful speculators and promoters who make the Vancouver market what it is.

Doubts about the VSE's capacity to continue attracting business have largely been dispelled by a 27 per cent advance in trading volumes in the first 10 months of this year. Last October's volume, averaging 10,111 shares a day, was the highest ever for the month.

Share prices have bounced up by around 40 per cent since the October 1984 crisis. Two more securities firms, including the US group Dean Witter, Reynolds, have signed up as VSE members, bringing the total to 49.

The authorities in British Columbia and the exchange have taken firm action to clear the air over what has become known as the Black Friday affair. Two stock promoters have been charged with fraud

affairs. Twenty compa-

and share price manipulation. Three directors of Beauford Resources, one of the companies at the centre of the storm, have resigned and a local securities firm has launched lawsuits against a number of clients.

Tighter surveillance and new listing requirements are among the measures taken in the past year to sustain confidence in the VSE without undermining its unique position as a spawning ground for high-risk (but sometimes rewarding) ventures.

Senior exchange officials now meet each Friday afternoon to review the week's most active shares and to examine possible links between them. Trading in a company automatically is halted if its share price moves beyond a pre-determined (but secret) range. Twenty-five such

panies were listed during October, half the number in the same month a year earlier. An exchange official says candidly that the aim is to reduce the number of new listings, while raising their quality.

With 80 per cent of the newcomers being budding mineral or energy producers, the VSE remains a resource-oriented market. Its finest hour in recent times was its role in financing some of the key players in the rich Hemlo gold field in western Ontario. However, industrial companies are beginning to steal some of the limelight.

One industrial success story is the Toronto-based International Verifac, which raised C\$500,000 on the VSE early last year with little more to show investors than the prototype of a new credit card authorisation terminal. Verifac now numbers several major North



American banks and retail chains among its customers, and recently landed an order for 7,500 terminals from Lucky Stores, a leading California food and department store chain.

Verifac's share price bounced up from C\$1.80 to almost C\$6 in less than a year. It has settled back to C\$3.30 following a 25 per cent increase in the company's share capital during October.

Another VSE-listed company, Neti Technologies, has made its presence felt in the market for electronic conferencing technology. Its share price doubled between January and August this year, and Neti acquired a Massachusetts-based supplier of computer conferencing software for C\$2.25m earlier this month.

Other cases illustrate, however, that investing in the VSE's industrial sector can be as speculative as buying shares in a company looking for oil or gold.

A resource group, with assets consisting mainly of mining claims announced last month that it plans to issue up to 12m shares to finance the search for a cure for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Another company listed recently is called Loh's Sinfully Good Ice Cream. A VSE listing official confides that the names chosen for some new ventures "are a constant source of embarrassment."

Bernard Simon

## When law leads to corporate disorder

OUT IN the heartland of America, the wheels of industry were beginning to slow down by Wednesday in anticipation of the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday. But in a partly depopulated Manhattan, Wall Street went roaring ahead; the Dow Jones Industrial Average soared up by almost 20 points to put itself in striking range of 1,500. Dealers had no cause for despondency over their turkey this year.

While interest rates continue to exert the underlying influence on the behaviour of the market, the role of the dollar has been even more evident this week. The massive award against Texaco, the multi-national oil group, in the multi-national oil group.

The court decision on behalf of Pennzoil—which claimed that it had agreed takeover terms with Getty Oil a year ago when Texaco stepped in with a higher offer—took investors entirely by surprise. Its significance also took a certain time to sink in.

But as Texaco was forced to admit that the award conceivably could lead it to file for bankruptcy under the preliminary Chapter 11 proceedings, the share price began to crumble. Since the decision the stock has lost one-fifth of its value, falling to around \$31, and \$20m has been lopped off Texaco's market value.

Only last year, the oil group spent \$1.5bn to buy out a large and potentially hostile stake held by the Bass family at a price of \$50 a share. The change in valuation underscores the point that in the US litigation cannot be ignored, because the courts often change the course of a company's affairs overnight.

The law delivered another blow in the New York courts this week, where Hanson Trust's efforts to gain control of SCM met with a preliminary judgement against the UK company. Hanson now is taking the case—which calls for the cancellation of SCM's option to sell some of its "crown jewel" assets to Merrill Lynch—to a higher court, where, on past evidence, there is a reasonable chance of winning.

Arbitrators who hold most of the SCM stock, however, marked the shares down after the ruling, indicating that they, at least, think that Hanson's chances have taken a knock.

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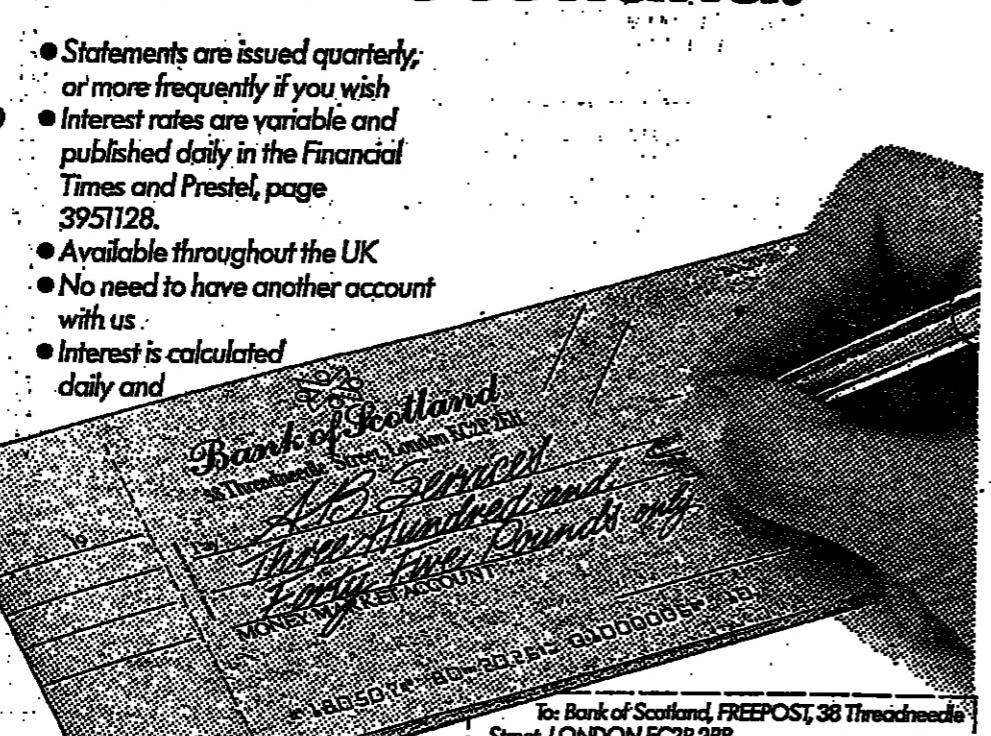
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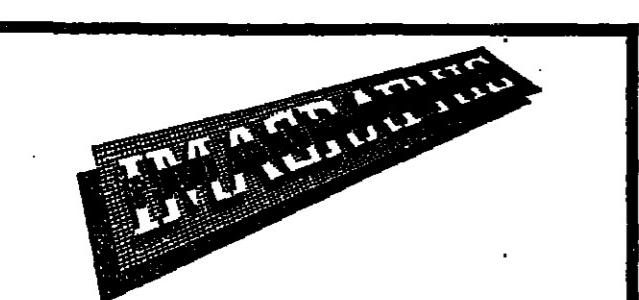
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1985/86 BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME



### Casting off inhibitions

Universal life plans are sweeping the US as the answer to every person's requirement for protection and savings. A similar head of steam is building up in Britain, with a new version of the universal life plan coming out each week.

This week it was the turn of Guardian Royal Exchange assurance, which has launched its version under the title of "Freedom". The name presumably is meant to imply that an investor using life concepts, inhibitions which GRE, as a traditional company, has also had to get rid of.

GRE, a leader in the permanent health market (PHM), is able to offer a more complete package than many of the newer linked life companies. Investors in "Freedom" have a choice of protection for life cover, permanent health cover, hospital cover, and investment.

Freedom in the wider sense also carries a responsibility to use that freedom without abusing others. GRE is marketing mainly through independent intermediaries, and its responsibility is to ensure that its clients' needs—not as a means of selling life cover and getting the highest commission rates. (A universal life policy, classified as a whole life policy, is at the very top of the commission scale.)

Thus it means selling the contracts of a life company whose life cover and protection premiums are competitive and whose investment record is good. Fortunately GRE has been a leader in term assurance and PHM for decades, and its investment team was good enough to win last year's Unit Trust Management Group of the Year award, established by the Observer newspaper.

GRE, which pioneered non-smoking discounts on life cover premiums, now offers a discount on its PHM rates for non-smokers. However it is still charging women extra for PHM.

You do, however, need to

deposit must be for a year, but after that you may withdraw your money at one month's notice.

"Through the West Midlands BRIC," said Unity Trust's managing director Terry Thomas, "any investor in the West Midlands who has the interests of the local economy and people at heart will be able to earn a high rate of interest and to dedicate his funds to that purpose."

### The nuts and bolts of shares

AN ENDORSEMENT by the Prime Minister, no doubt part of her campaign to encourage wider share ownership,

introduces a new book by a former Financial Times journalist, Rosemary Burr. In her introduction to it, Mrs Thatcher says: "It is about the nuts and bolts of buying, holding and selling shares. It should prove a valuable source of information and advice for

The Share Book, as it is called, is aimed at the newcomer to shareholding. It explains the differing roles of the Stock Exchange, Unlisted Securities Market (USM) and the Over-the-Counter (OTC) markets. It also has a glossary of terms used, perks available, and useful names and addresses. Priced at £5.99, it is available from leading bookshops or direct from Roster Publications, 60 Wellington Street, London W1 (01-935 4550).

### National improvement

INTEREST RATES on the National Savings Ordinary Account are never princely, but the government-run savings bank has now

announced a slight improvement. Investors have been getting 3 per cent unless they maintain a balance of more than £500 throughout the calendar year, when the interest rises to 6 per cent. The new arrangement will pay 6 per cent for each calendar month in which you keep your balance about £500, but you do not have to maintain £500 in your account all year round.

You do, however, need to

keep at least £100 in the account for the whole calendar year to qualify for the higher interest rate in those months when the balance is more than £500. Sounds complicated? It is. The consolation is that your first £70 a year of interest on the ordinary account is tax-free.

### Prudential hot line

The Prudential has installed a special hotline telephone service to cope with the expected rush in applications for its latest unit trust before the initial offer expires on December 5.

The company says that since the launch of its Holborn Special Situations Trust on November 16 it has attracted £5m from investors. So it has installed a direct free line service to its Ilford headquarters (0800-010-345) handling the offer, from 10 am to 4 pm this weekend and from 8 am to 6 pm on weekdays.

### Expatriate savings plan

A NEW Expatriate Savings Plan from Rothschild Asset Management (RAM) allows expatriates to make regular investments in International stock markets and currencies through the group's offshore funds. By selecting the appropriate RAM fund, the saver is able to choose which country's stock market or currency the money should be invested in, and how much should be allocated to each.

This allocation can be varied at any time, as can the amount invested (subject to a minimum of £20 a month or its equivalent in another currency). You do not necessarily have to save monthly but each payment must be at least £20.

If you do not want to make the investment selection yourself, RAM will do it for you. Penalty-free withdrawals can be made after 21 days' notice and the only charges are those normally incurred in offshore fund investment. There is no extra charge for the savings plan itself.

THE INSTANT reaction from one investment adviser to the planned takeover of the Tyndall group by the US-based AEtna Life company was: "It will do them a lot of good, give the group a much needed shot in the arm."

His advice to investors with Tyndall is to hold on and hope for the best. In fact things could get distinctly better for holders of Tyndall unit trusts in particular who have suffered from lean years recently.

The deal, announced this week, is yet to be finalised between AEtna and the current owners of Tyndall, the Globe Investment Trust. But the purchase price of £35m has already been agreed and there seems little reason why it should not go through.

The takeover seems to suit everyone. Globe say it is keen to concentrate on developing wholesale fund management and pull out of the retail market. AEtna Life like other US life companies, wants to enlarge its share of business on this side of the Atlantic. For Tyndall and its investors the backing of a group with assets in excess of \$51bn (far dwarfing even the biggest UK life companies) should be advantageous in the years ahead.

Mr Brian Pepperall, chairman of the Tyndall group said: "We can't stay in the middle ground. These days you have to be either small and specialist or big. The bigger resources provided by AEtna will enable us to expand our services, add depth on investment and taxation advice."

Tyndall manages some £700m of investment funds. In the UK unit trust industry it was the 22nd biggest management group in 1983 making it top of the second division funds with between £100m and £200m. But Tyndall was one of the only two unit trust groups to contract in

### Tyndall takeover

## A plan that suits everyone



Brian Pepperall: giving up the middle ground

performance of the Tyndall funds.

He thought the takeover by AEtna would give them a chance to "weed out the rubbish" and benefit from the investment experience available from MIM (Montague Investment Management) which the Midland Bank sold to AEtna earlier this year.

Mr John Green, of Richards Longstaff, another Bristol-based investment group, was a little more complimentary. He said the proposed takeover was a logical step for both parties. But he added they did not have much money invested with Tyndall although they had put in substantial amounts in the early 1970s.

Mr Pepperall admitted that the performance of the group's unit trusts had been rather dull recently after having enjoyed good spells in the past. They had been putting more emphasis on developing the banking deposit services and overseas business.

However, Tyndall was a nicely balanced business and the backing of a group with major resources like AEtna would enable them to "put more flesh on it" and provide a fuller service, he said.

John Edwards

This advertisement does not constitute an invitation to subscribe for shares

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FTOS

## Think twice before cashing in your MIPs

George Graham reviews MIPs—Maximum Investment Plans—on their 10th anniversary

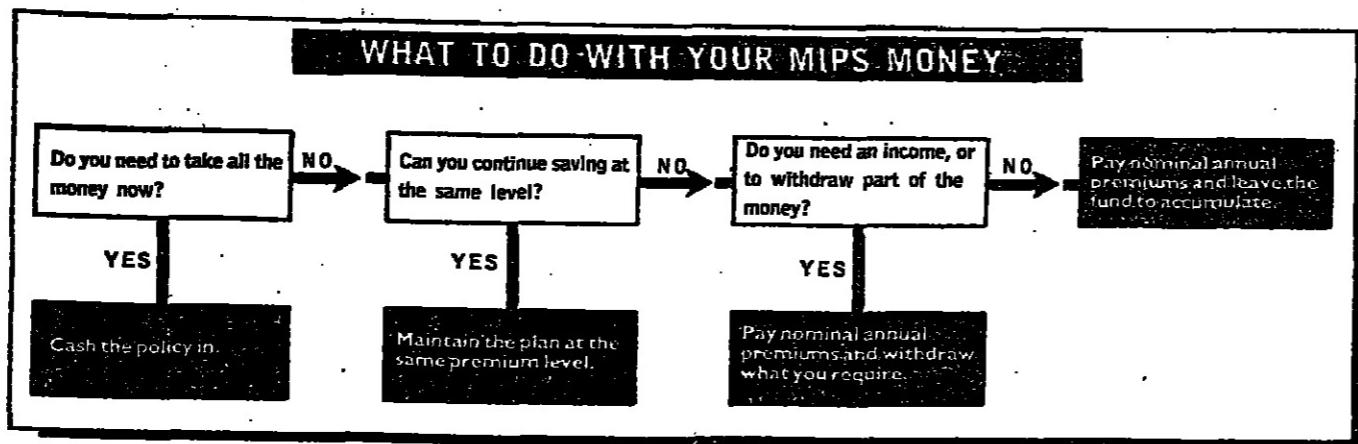
TEN YEARS of saving are about to bear fruit for thousands of people. They will be able to reap the tax-free benefits of the Maximum Investment Plans—technically insurance policies—in reality pure investments—they started before 1976.

In that year, the Government altered the rules governing these policies, raising the amount of life insurance needed for them to qualify as MIPs policies. Unlike the abolition of Life Assurance Premium relief last year, this change was signalled in advance; so insurance companies rushed to sell tens of thousands of these unit-linked policies before the deadline.

After keeping up their savings for a full 10 years, savers will be able to cash in their Maximum Investment Plans—or MIPs—free of tax or penalties. And—with a decade of rising stock markets behind them, they could be sitting on over £1bn between them. They may be better off doing nothing.

If you took out a MIP for £50 a month in 1976 and invested in an average insurance company's managed fund, you would now be sitting on an £11,500 cash pot. If you chose the UK equity fund you would have done better, with £13,500 now accumulated; though anyone unwise enough to have chosen the property fund would be licking their wounds with only £9,300.

Heavy charges and initial commissions have eaten into this performance. By comparison, investing £50 a month for ten years in the medium UK general unit trust would have netted you over £16,000, while a general international fund



would have returned £12,600. You might have to pay capital gains tax on this, however.

All the same, you have worked for ten years to get the MIP's tax advantages. Do not now throw them away lightly.

The decision tree gives a simplified guide to your choices.

Your first option is to cash in the MIP, but there is little sense in doing this unless you really want the money now—to help with a house purchase, for instance. "You would be crazy to cash it in if you don't want the money for anything else," commented one financial adviser.

If you do decide you need the money, make sure you wait till after the tenth anniversary of your policy before cashing in.

Option 2 is to keep on saving through your MIP. Ten years bring the MIP into its full tax-free status, but the policies were, in fact, written to cover your whole life, so there is no problem about continuing with the plan.

So long as you do not increase your premiums you will continue to receive Life Assurance Premium Relief—a 17.65 per cent bonus from the

taxman. In addition, you have already paid your way through the initial commission and charges barrier, and several of the insurance companies start to give you more units for your money from the tenth anniversary.

By paying a nominal pre-

mium, however, you can keep the MIP in force. Most groups, such as Allied Dunbar, or Hill Samuel, will allow you to drop to only £1 a year. You can then withdraw money from your MIP fund, whether as a regular income or as irregular cash payments.

Some policies, however, are written in such a way that they only permit premiums to be reduced to half their current level, not to £1. To allow investors to draw an income, groups such as Trident expect to introduce a variation known as a reinvestment bond. If you transfer the whole of the proceeds of your qualifying MIP into the reinvestment bond, you can also transfer the tax privileges, and then draw a tax-free income.

Caution is needed. If, for instance, you have taken out a

loan secured against your MIP, you may be required to repay some of the money from your MIP proceeds. You cannot then put the remaining MIP money into a reinvestment bond; once again, it is all or nothing.

So check with your financial adviser or with the insurance company that you are not jeopardising the qualifying tax status of your MIP policy.

The tenth anniversary of your MIP makes a good opportunity for reviewing your financial planning. For instance, you could make use of the MIP proceeds to improve your pension arrangements, whether to fund additional voluntary contributions to your company scheme or, in some circumstances, as a lump sum for your personal pension plan. You would get full tax relief on these contributions.

Or you could use the money in planning your Capital Transfer Tax affairs—by giving the MIP fund in trust to your heirs, perhaps, or by drawing an income from it to pay the premiums on a life assurance policy that will pay your heirs' eventual CIT bill.

# Platinum – a unique investment

Platinum is one of the rarest metals on earth and one of the most valuable. It is produced in exceptionally small quantities and the total world output is only around 80 tonnes annually, compared with about 1,200 tonnes of gold.

Much of the platinum produced is used in a rapidly growing range of high technology applications and a significant proportion is made into jewellery. Consequently the metal is always in demand. It is also a readily tradeable commodity.

Now Johnson Matthey platinum bars are available to the private investor.

Of course, like any other investment, the value of platinum can fall as well as rise, particularly in the short term. But the price has nearly quadrupled during the past decade and over a similar period it has easily outperformed inflation, too.

Johnson Matthey platinum bars are produced in eight sizes up to 10Oz troy, each one being individually numbered.

You can take possession of the bars in the UK, in which case VAT must be charged. Alternatively, they can be held in safe keeping at our vaults in Jersey or Zurich, in which case no VAT is payable on the value of the bars.

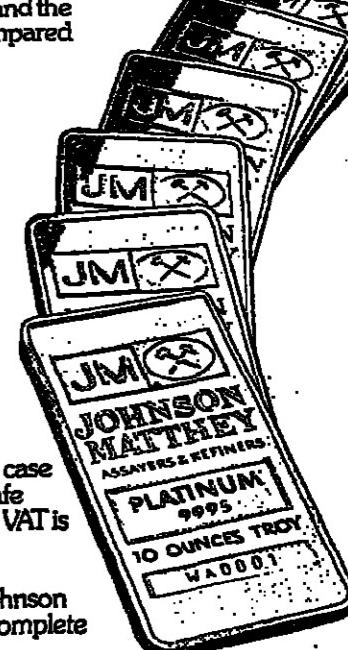
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JM

## Christmas gift portfolio

IF EBENEZER SCROOGE were alive today he wouldn't just be sitting there counting his money. He would be making it grow and grow. Assuming you do not share his lack of charity, there are many gifts you could give your friends this Christmas to help them make their money grow.

For the more financially sophisticated among them a subscription to the Prestel Citi-Service would be a real status symbol. You could pay for a year's subscription to Prestel, amounting to £26 for the personal user. Subscribers will then pay as and when they use it.

First of all there is a time charge of 6p a minute. Then the CitiService itself costs 7p a page for stock market information and comment, 12p a page for the commodity and foreign exchange markets. Each time a new page is called up an additional charge is clocked up. For £25 a go users can also get an instant valuation of their own share portfolio, the cost covering one page of ten holdings.

But to give such a present the recipient has first to have access to Prestel. You are unlikely to want to foot the bill for that—£95 to £375 to adapt a television set, £90 to £260 to do the same for a micro computer or £600 or more for a dedicated terminal incorporating its own screen and keyboard.

For the less organised investor the ideal present could be either The Shareholder or Shareholder File. The first is intended to keep a record of an investor's portfolio. Inside the case there is room for records of 20 individual holdings—shares, gilts or commodities. Constant information, such as details of the purchase date and price, company name, etc., are recorded direct on gold or buff cards—gold for more stable holdings and buff for more volatile shares.

The cards, which can be replaced and repositioned as required, are stored in individual channels. They are overlaid with a clear plastic cover on to which fluctuating data such as current prices, highs, lows, can be recorded and updated with a special pen. The system also includes "stop loss" indicators to lessen the downside risk on volatile shares. The

case, which costs £49.95, is available from Investors Supplies (081 988 2612). The deluxe version, The Shareholder costs £75.95.

The same company also markets the more basic Shareholder File for keeping investment papers in order. This is simply a ring binder of 20 clear reinforced plastic pockets into which all relevant paperwork relating to a particular investment can be stored. Each pocket is fronted with a record sheet, the top of which keeps track of purchases and sales and the bottom records dividends and tax credit. This costs £14.95.

Another practical present would be one of the investment guides. Unfortunately one of the best books for the serious investor, Interpreting Company Reports and Accounts by Geoffrey Holmes and Alan Sugden, published by Woodhead-Faulkner, is out of print and a new edition will not be available until the end of February. So too is the Which Book of Saving and Investing and there are no plans for a reprint. The Which Tax and Insurance books are still available, however, each costing £12.95.

Good alternatives are chartered accountants Robson Rhodes' Personal Financial Planning Manual—the second edition is just in the shops and costs £15.95—Allied Dunbar's Investment Guide, in its sixth edition and costing £10.95. The FT publishes two guides—Investing for Beginners by Daniel O'Shea (formerly Beginner's Please) and Investor's Guide to the Stockmarket by Gordon Cummings. Both cost £8.75 but unlike the others are only available by mail order from the Publications and Marketing Dept, 102 Clerkenwell Road, London EC4M 5SA.

In a lighter vein is former FT journalist Rosemary Burr's 100 Money Saving Ideas which costs £2 at any bookshop and her new Share Book at £5.99.

A financial variant of the personal loose leaf filing system has been produced by Lefax Publishing for the

Margaret Hughes

# The Eagle Star UK Growth Trust

A new unit trust seeking growth opportunities in the shares of UK companies

The UK stockmarket is the third largest in the world—so the range of investments available to investors is extensive.

In fact, there are some 2,000 UK companies quoted on the stock exchange—and more than 300 others quoted on the relatively new Unlisted Securities Market.

They range from the relatively low risk "blue chip" shares to the higher risk—and greater potential rewards—of smaller and more adventurous companies.

There are companies at every stage of development; from the very newest companies in the high-tech industries and fast growth sectors of the economy—to older companies with roots going back as far as the Industrial Revolution.

From this wealth of opportunities, experienced investment managers can identify companies that are under-rated by the market—so that, as time goes by, and a more general realisation of their own worth becomes apparent, substantial capital gains can be made.

A team of experts to manage your money

When you invest in the UK Growth Trust, you will be entrusting your money to the experienced hands of Eagle Star's team of full-time professionals—who manage total worldwide assets of more than £5,500 million. They will constantly monitor the performance of the Trust's holdings and take whatever action they believe will produce the best possible return for investors.

**Additional Information**

Capital gains tax: Unit trusts are not subject to capital gains tax. Moreover, when you sell your units, you will not have to pay capital gains tax on your total realised gains in the tax year exceed the tax-free allowance, which is currently £5,900.

Income Tax: Tax on the basic rate is deducted from the Trust's income together with a rounding adjustment of up to 1%. It is taken into account in the calculation of "buying" and "selling" prices. Normally there is a 6% difference between the purchase and selling prices as met by a charge of 3% deducted from the Trust's income. The Trust allows a maximum of 3% deduction from the Trust's income.

Interest: As the aim of this Trust is the maximum possible growth all income will automatically be remitted in the Trust on behalf.

Following the progress of your investment: We will send you a Contract Note within 7 days and a Certificate within 28 days. Both of these will state the number of units you have bought. Unit prices will be shown in the Daily Telegraph, The Times and the Financial Times.

Managers: Eagle Star Unit Managers Limited, Registered Office, 1 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8EE. Registrar: The Royal Bank of Scotland Plc.



The unique "Rainbow" approach

All Eagle Star unit trusts have been colour-coded to tell you the degree of risk—and potential reward—that they carry. For this purpose, we have used the colours of the rainbow as a scale—ranging from violet as the most secure, to red as the most adventurous.

The UK Growth Trust is "Rainbow-rated"...

**MEDIUM RISK**

As with any investment of this nature, the price of units—and the income from them—must be expected to fall from time to time, as well as rise.

**You can cash-in or add to your investment at any time**

Although you should regard this Trust as a medium to long term holding, you can sell your units whenever you wish.

Of course, if you don't wish to sell all your units, you won't have to. You can simply cash-in what you need, provided that you leave at least £500 or more invested.

**DICKENS' PIGGY BANK**

If the holdings are to be in joint names, please give full names and addresses of the other joint holders (maximum of 3) on a separate sheet of paper.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send details of your Share Exchange Service for unit trusts.

Name and address of Financial Adviser (if any)

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

If not available to Residents of Eire,

The Trust's objective

The aim of this Trust is to achieve higher than average capital growth by investing in the shares of a small number of carefully selected UK companies.

Approximately three-quarters of the Trust will be invested in "special situations" which may include securities quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market as well as shares of companies just beginning to show growth potential.

**How to invest**

The UK Growth Trust is available to everyone aged 18 or over. Simply decide how much you wish to invest (minimum £500)—then complete the application form and send it with your cheque to Eagle Star Group, (LC43) FREEPOST, Bath Road, Cheltenham, GL53 3BR. No stamp is needed.

**YOUR APPLICATION**

To: Eagle Star Unit Managers Limited (LC43) FREEPOST Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos, GL53 3BR.

I/we wish to invest £\_\_\_\_\_ (minimum £500) in the Eagle Star UK Growth Trust. A cheque made payable to Eagle Star Unit Managers is enclosed. I am 18 or over 18 years of age.

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Forename \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

If the holdings are to be in joint names, please give full names and addresses of the other joint holders (maximum of 3) on a separate sheet of paper.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send details of your Share Exchange Service for unit trusts.

Name and address of Financial Adviser (if any)

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

If not available to Residents of Eire,

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please call 01-637 4974/74 quoting TU14

Eagle Star Group

Eagle Star Unit Managers Limited  
Eagle Star House, Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL53 7LQ  
Telephone: 0242 521311

The information contained in this advertisement is based upon Eagle Star's understanding of current law and Inland Revenue practice.

**Eagle Star Group**

This advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe for or purchase any securities. It is emphasised that no application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for permission to deal in the Ordinary Shares of the Company on the United Securities Market or for admission to the United Securities Market. The Directors apply to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the grant of permission after the issue of the Offer Document will have completed three years of trading. In the meantime, it is a fact of The Guidehouse Group PLC that it is not entitled to participate in the Ordinary Shares of the Company on its Over-The-Counter market.



ALLIED INSURANCE BROKERS GROUP plc  
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Member of NASDAQ

of up to 750,000  
Ordinary Shares of 10p each  
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#### THE BUSINESS

The Company commenced trading following a management buy-out in January 1984, as a general non-marine insurance and life and pensions broker and now has offices in London, Stevenage and Norwich. In its first year of trading to 31 December 1984, the Group achieved profits before taxation of £214,000 and is forecasting profits before taxation of £255,000 for the year to December 1985. The Group has acquired two businesses for a total consideration of up to £270,000 in 1985 and intends to make further acquisitions following this Offer.

The subscription list will close when the Offer is fully subscribed or at midnight on 8th January 1985, unless extended prior to that date. The minimum subscription to the Offer of £50,000 has been underwritten by The Guidehouse Group PLC.

Copies of the Prospectus, on the terms of which alone applications for shares may be made, may be obtained from:

The Guidehouse Group PLC  
Vestry House, Greyfriars Passage, Newgate Street, London  
EC1A 7BA  
Tel: 01-606 7001  
or  
Guidehouse Northern Limited,  
Coverdale House, 14 East Parade, Leeds LS1 2BW  
Tel: 0532-438043

Please send me a copy of the Prospectus for Allied Insurance Brokers Group plc.

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FROM \_\_\_\_\_

#### FINANCIAL TIMES

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Advertising copy date: December 2, 1985

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TIM KINGHAM  
01-248 8000 ext. 3606

## Pension package

Eric Short on a new plan to help the retired make their funds go further.

THE growth of private pensions, since the Second World War is now resulting in many people retiring with an income similar to that while working. This has two implications that financial institutions have been slow to recognise.

Retired people often continue to have cash available for savings and are becoming an increasingly important group in this scene.

They are in position to meet interest payments on a mortgage after retirement, so there is no longer the same pressure to have it paid off by the time they stop work. There also is no bar to taking out a fresh mortgage if the proper terms can be worked out.

One institution that has made a positive move to take advantage of this changed situation is a leading building society, National and Provincial, with its new Retirement Package.

The savings needs of the retired are varied. Many require their capital to produce an income and some still look for capital growth, even though the benefit is more likely to be reaped by their children. So, the first part of the Retirement Package brings together existing savings contracts to meet the needs of regular income.

capital growth, or a combination of both.

The second part of the package offers mortgage facilities to the retired, or those near to retirement, to buy a home. Advances would be up to two-thirds the value of the house on an interest-only basis.

This means the retired can retain the major part of the capital released by selling their existing house and are not burdened by having to set aside money for the mortgage. This is repaid when the property bought eventually is sold or transferred to another person—usually after death.

If the retired couple have problems of delay between sale and purchase, National and Provincial can arrange a bridging loan. And even if they intend to stay put in their old house, the new package offers a mortgage on an interest-only basis for improvements and alterations to make the property suited better for the needs of the elderly.

However, these services are not being offered to the retired on a blanket basis. Unlike mortgage applications from younger people (which these days are processed virtually on a conveyor belt principle) the couple will be interviewed and counselled by their branch manager to ensure they understand what they are doing and that their retirement income will meet commitments.

National and Provincial accepts this weakness and intends to launch an orthodox home-income scheme early next year, with fixed interest payments on the mortgage, following the present from branches.

The society insists, however, that any applicant now will have the situation explained fully and will possibly be advised to wait until the new scheme becomes available.

White: R. Kauranen (Finland); Black: K. B. Richardson (Britain).

Pirc Defence (world postal final 1983-84).

1 P-K4; P-KN3; 2 P-Q4; B-N2; 3 N-KB3; P-O3; 4 B-K2; N-KB3; 5 N-KB3; 6 Q-O3; P-K4; 7 P-Q5; N-KB3; 8 P-Q5; 9 P-Q5; N-KB3; 10 Q-R1; B-O2; 11 N-O2; N-R4; 12 P-KN3; P-O3; 13 B-R3; P-Q4; 14 P-QN3; Q-KL15 Q-K2; N-KB3; 16 P-QN4; P-KR6; 17 N-X3; N-5; 18 N-N1; P-KB4; 19 P-P; P-P; 20 B-N2; B-KB3; 21 B-B; N-S8; 22 B-N2; Q-B2; 23 Q-O2; K-R2; 24 N-R3; R-KN1; 25 P-QB4; P-P.

Black's king side attack has developed much faster than White's ponderous efforts to open up the other flank. If 26 N-P, B-Y4.

26 N-B3; P-R5; 27 K-R1; Q-R4; 28 Q-K2; N-N5; 29 B-B3; Q-R3; 30 BxN; R-B8; 31 P-B3; R-N2; 32 PxP; Q-KN1.

Now Black expected 33 R-KN1; QxP; 34 QxP; P-B5; 35 N-N4; N-B4; 36 Q-QB2; K-R1;

This second point is important because if the company pensioner dies first—the husband—then the pension for the surviving spouse is reduced by half.

The third part of the package recognises that as far as retired people are concerned the world is still very much in two parts—those with a company pension and those who must rely solely on the state for an income that is anything but adequate. If they own the property in which they live, but need to boost their income, then the package offers an income facility called an annuity loan.

It is rather a hybrid scheme at present but National and Provincial offers the householder, who must be at least 70 (or a combined age of at least 150 for a couple), an interest-only mortgage. The person concerned has to buy an annuity, although the society would advise on the best ones.

Normally, the home owner would get a fixed income from the annuity, out of which would be paid mortgage interest that is variable as market conditions change. This is all very well if interest rates are falling, but a rise can reduce income drastically.

National and Provincial accepts this weakness and intends to launch an orthodox home-income scheme early next year, with fixed interest payments on the mortgage, following the present from branches.

The society insists, however, that any applicant now will have the situation explained fully and will possibly be advised to wait until the new scheme becomes available.

## FINANCE & THE FAMILY

### Understanding Reports and Accounts



**All above board**

THE JOURNEY in search of clear information through a set of published accounts starts with reading the directors' report. A directors' report is required to be included in the accounts by law, much of the information also being prescribed. A company must, for example, tell its shareholders who the directors are, and the extent of their personal shareholdings in the company, both at the beginning and at the end of the year. If the directors have any personal interests in contracts with the company these must be disclosed.

The whole business of appointing directors is the responsibility of the shareholders; they appoint them, and they have the right to remove them.

A director has a very special relationship with the shareholders of the company. It is to him or her that you delegate the power and authority to run the company. It is in the board of directors that you place your trust to ensure that the company trades as its owners require it to, and within the confines of the law. For this

report too, is information about any research and development of a significant nature that the company has undertaken.

This may be a first insight into the possible future profits of the company, and perhaps future trend for growth. Most of the information in the directors' report is merely selected highlights from the actual annual accounts, but there are some bits of information that feature nowhere else in the accounts. Here, for example, the company's policy towards its employees has to be described; particularly health and safety at work, and employment of disabled people. Here, too, the company's charitable donations and contributions to the funds of political parties must be disclosed.

The final piece of information disclosed in the directors' report is about the auditors.

If the auditors disagree with the information contained in the director's report they have the right to inform all shareholders of these views, and to make a presentation at the annual general meeting. Of course this does not happen very often. It would signify a very serious breach of confidence between the directors and the auditor were such a presentation to be made. Normally a shareholder can take comfort from the fact that the auditors "express themselves willingly" and found them to be correct.

Next week: Accounting conventions.

accounts of any company are correct and that they give an accurate picture of the business of the company during the period under report.

The audit team attend personally at the company. They examine the accounting records to try to establish their accuracy. They do not examine every entry in the books, but work with systems, testing to ensure that they are able to make valid judgements. Once they have made their judgments they decide what kind of audit report to write to the members or shareholders.

If the auditors find that they do not feel are correct, or if they feel that assumptions need an explanation, they will qualify the audit report. Often the accounts of small companies contain the following sentence:

"The company's accounts have been drawn up on a going-concern basis subject to the continued support of... Bank". This means simply that if... Bank decides not to support the company, perhaps call in its overdraft funding, then the company will have to cease to have enough finance to continue.

It is important to realise that, although the directors' report is scrutinised by the auditor, it is not part of the documentation on which the auditor reports. Every piece of information contained therein is written in the directors' terms.

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The words "true and fair" are used by auditors to express their belief that the

accounts give a true and fair view.

This is not a major qualification, merely an indication that there has been an area of disagreement and that in respect of that matter only the accounts may not be quite accurate.

In certain cases the matter of disagreement may be of a major, and very serious, kind.

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Building Society 12 month account (Source: Money Management, Sept. 1985, Interest Rate

**Briefcase**

## A hobby—but still taxable

I am retired and my hobby is sailing. Very occasionally I sell a magazine article about my hobby.

My total earnings from this source amount to no more than £100 to £200 a year. Needless to say there is no question of my making a profit on my hobby.

Do I have to pay tax on these earnings? If so, what expenses are deductible?

First question: Yes, under case VI of Schedule D (or possibly under case II).

Second question: Just the direct expenses, such as paper and postage, plus the appropriate proportion of the cost of typewriter ribbons etc.

### Dealing in a small way

I have been buying and selling stocks and shares for many years in a small way, but as I have recently been left a number of shares I have been increasing my turnover. I have not made capital gains to be liable for CGT but am concerned that HMRC may look at my gains as profits for tax purposes.

Can you tell me when gains from stocks and shares are likely to be looked on as profits for tax purposes, and would it depend on the number of transactions, or the turnover having regard to the number of investments?

You really have no need to worry. There is virtually no prospect of your tax inspector looking to tax you as a dealer in stocks and shares.

### Releasing a covenant

When I purchased my property two years ago the vendor was selling an old barn, just over my wall but only 20 yards from my house, which stands in some 1½ acres and is say 150 yards plus from the nearest property. To preserve the tranquillity and seclusion the vendor agreed to covenant that the barn would not be developed for any other purpose—i.e., as residence, workshop, etc.

Recently a new owner of the barn has obtained planning permission for conversion into a residence and he has offered me £15,000 to lease the Covenant. This has now been agreed. Am I liable for any Capital Gains Tax bearing in mind that the transaction is connected with my private

residence, the value of which must be reduced by the close proximity of another property?

The gain is not exempted by section 101 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979, we are sorry to say. You will find a sketchy outline of the rules in a free pamphlet CGT4, which is obtainable from your tax inspector's office. It is rather a pity that you did not ask your solicitor for guidance on the tax aspects, during the negotiations with the new owner.

### Contact the ombudsman

My mother died almost three years ago, leaving a small estate, we estimate about £30,000 and a property assessed will; there are seven beneficiaries. Probate was granted in 1983 and the solicitor has made an interim payment of £20,000 to each beneficiary but says he cannot finalise the estate because the Inland Revenue have lost all relevant documents relating to our mother's tax position. He enclosed letters from them to that effect and I wrote to them several months ago (13 to be exact) respectfully requesting that they do their best to hasten the process. The solicitor informs us he has written to them continually without success. One of my sisters (a beneficiary) has died since our mother. What course would you advise me to take to settle the Inland Revenue into action?

We feel the longer this is delayed, the remainder will be eroded by legal costs.

Write to your MP, enclosing the copies of the tax inspector's letters which the solicitor sent you, and ask him or her to refer your complaint to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman).

The solicitor should be willing to give you an account of the administration of the estate so far, if you explain that it may help your MP's efforts on behalf of the beneficiaries.

### CGT due on shop sale

In 1975 I bought a shop property for £4,000 and let it on a 20-year lease. Now I am thinking of selling it to the tenant for £30,000. I had it valued in 1979 at £21,000.

Could you tell me what capital gains tax would be payable and also if indexation would have to be paid on the price I paid

for it or could the 1979 value be used? If so how do I go about it and what proof would the tax inspector need from me?

The Capital Gains Tax payable from the sale of the shop property which you describe would be calculated and assessed on the result of the following calculation.

Disposal proceeds.

Less (a) Original acquisition cost is £4,000.

(b) Allowable expenditure incurred on the property prior to sale, i.e. capital improvements.

(c) Expenditure involved in selling the property, i.e. solicitors' fees etc.

(d) Indexation allowance from April 1, 1982 calculated on either the original acquisition cost or the value of the asset.

(e) Generally speaking, the latter which will give the greater deduction and reduce the gain liable to tax.

You should endeavour to have the property valued as at March 31, 1982, and enquire of your solicitor or accountant as to which basis the gain should be calculated. The Inland Revenue will usually take your word as to the acquisition cost but may require sight of the disposition in your favour. Proof of expenditure will also be required although the Revenue take a fairly relaxed view for reasonable sale expenses.

### Denial of due process

Five months ago I handed my bank five certified cheques totalling £40,315. These were all drawn on American banks. I was told that they would take four to six weeks to clear.

The first four cheques actually took 2½ months, although the cash had been drawn from the account within three weeks, and I am still waiting the fifth.

I have tried in vain to find out what has happened to my money. I am merely informed that this type of transaction can take this length of time. Is there any watchdog to whom I can appeal?

No, there is no "watchdog" available. You might take the matter up with the directors of your bank, or, alternatively, ascertain by enquiry of other banking institutions whether you might have a claim in negligence against your bank for taking so long to process cheques.

### Accounts are late

I live in a leasehold flat, part of a modern block managed by a limited company elected as directors and officers of the company by all the leaseholders who each own one share in the company.

The directors refused to issue the annual accounts with the statutory notices for the Annual General Meeting and sometimes deliver them only one or two days beforehand.

I always understood that accounts should be delivered with the notice of the AGM. Is this correct? and if so what is the effect of them not being so delivered? What sanctions are available against the directors and officers of the company to rectify this situation?

The accounts must be laid before the annual general meeting, but are not required by law to be delivered to members with notice of the meeting, although that is the general and no doubt good, practice.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

John Spiers, W Greenwell & Co. Tel: 01-236 2040 Bow Bells House, Bread Street, London EC4M 9EL.

**STAMP DUTY** is the oldest tax currently administered by the Inland Revenue. First imposed in 1694 during the reign of William and Mary and with a forecast yield of £1bn for 1983/84, it ranks in significance with taxes such as capital transfer (£700m) and capital gains (£700m).

Compared with these two taxes however, it is a simple one, usually requiring little Finance Act space each year, although 1985 was an exception. One reason for its simplicity is that it is not a tax on specific transactions, but on the documents used to effect those transactions. If you can validly carry out a transaction without using a document, for example by transferring ownership of property by delivery, no duty can arise.

The other unusual aspect of stamp duty is that it is not an assessed tax: the Inland Revenue waits for you to present it with the document to be stamped and the tax to be paid. Its collection costs thus compare favourably with other taxes.

To that extent it is a "voluntary tax" but the catch is that certain transactions which attract stamp duty liability cannot be effected without the use of a document and if that document is not stamped those benefiting from the transaction may find themselves under a legal disability.

To take the two most obvious examples: if you buy a house you need a conveyance or transfer of the land, and if you fail to stamp the conveyance or transfer you will not be able to establish your title to the land. Similarly, if you take a transfer of shares and do not stamp the transfer, you will be unable to register your title to the shares with the company concerned.

Generally, stamp duty is either a nominal, fixed duty (normally 50p) or is charged at 1 per cent of the value of the transaction. A sale of land or shares or other securities attracts duty at 1 per cent of the sale consideration, and the liability normally falls upon the

### Taxation

## Simple matter of a stamp



purchase rather than the vendor.

In the case of a sale of land, however, no liability to stamp duty arises where the consideration does not exceed £30,000. This exemption does not apply to sales of shares or other securities and is not an exemption of the first £30,000 of any consideration. Thus, a sale for £31,000 attracts a 1 per cent liability on the whole consideration, i.e. £310.

The tax cannot be avoided by splitting up land into £30,000 blocks. A certificate must be given for the sale stating that it is not part of a larger transaction. Thus, a sale for £30,000 attracts a 1 per cent liability on its value which exceeds £30,000.

It used to be possible to avoid duty on land transferred as a gift by making a series of gifts none of which exceeded £30,000 in value. With the abolition this year of the 1 per cent stamp duty on gifts such manoeuvres are unnecessary.

From January 1 1983 the procedure for transferring registered

land where there is no liability to duty is being simplified. Such transfers may be sent direct to the Land Registry and need no longer be submitted to the Inland Revenue. This new procedure does not apply in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

These points apply equally to a sale of a freehold title to land and the assignment of a leasehold interest for a capital sum. The simplified procedure does not apply, however, where a new lease is created. It is agreed to be granted. Here the level of duty depends upon a combination of the length of the lease, the premium payable on its grant and the rent payable on its life.

Where a lease is granted for a premium, the premium will attract 1 per cent duty unless it does not exceed £30,000 and the rent does not exceed £300.

The two favoured ways of minimising liability to stamp duty have been to avoid the creation of a stampable document or to ensure that the value attributable to such a

document is reduced on a combination of both.

Such devices lie behind the "preference share trick" under which, on a sale of a company, the registered shares were reduced in value and attracted little liability on transfer, while new shares carrying all the company's value were issued on transferable allotment letters which were not stampable documents.

The same idea was used for transfers of land under which the value of the interest in land was reduced by entering into an agreement for lease exceeding 35 years at a premium in favour of the purchaser and then selling him or her the remaining interest for a nominal sum. The agreement for lease was not stampable while the transfer of the remaining interest only attracted a minimal liability.

Both the "pre" trick and the agreement for lease scheme have been countered by Parliament in the last two years. The courts have now added their own disapproval by deciding in *Ingram v IRC* that the agreement for lease scheme, at least, was ineffective because the new approach to tax avoidance laid down in *Furniss v Dawson* applies to stamp duty avoidance.

Unless subsequently reversed by a higher court, the Ingram decision is retrospective in operation, unlike the legislation introduced to counter the scheme. Those who undertook lease schemes before the Inland Revenue challenged them, may therefore be in possession of inadequately stamped conveyances.

In the case of registered land, there is probably no problem if the purchaser has already registered the title. Where the conveyance was submitted to the Inland Revenue for its view on stamp duty liability there is statutory protection against further liability. In other cases purchasers may have to consider whether conveyances should now be stamped in line with the Ingram decision.

Malcolm Gammie

## Brought to book

ARE YOU paying more tax than you need to? You may not be aware of the allowances to which you are entitled or the legal arrangements that can be made to reduce your tax liability.

Although in recent years there has been a trend towards simplification of the overall tax structure, it is still complicated. The 1985 Finance Act, for example, ran to 242 pages in spite of making few significant changes to the proposals announced in the Budget last March.

Lofthouse Publications, of 29 Ropergate, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, have just published two new editions of long established taxation books, updated to take into account the provisions for the 1983-86 tax year.

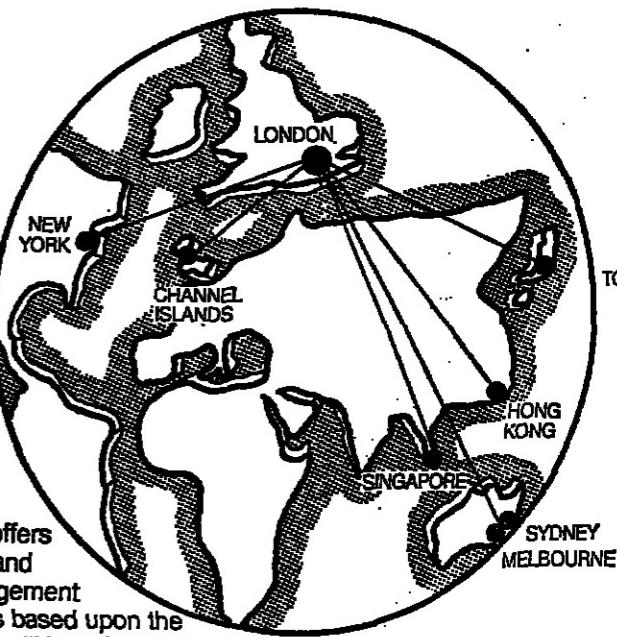
**Taxation Simplified**, in its 73rd edition, is published every spring and autumn, and aims to give at least a basic understanding of the British system with special attention to the small business, whether it is operated by one person, a partnership or a limited company. It gives the information in short, snappy paragraphs that are easy to understand and follow in 111 pages, including a useful index.

Smith's **Taxation 1985-86**, also published by Lofthouse, is a different proposition. It runs to 688 pages and aims to serve as a comprehensive source of reference. Very detailed, it does also provide working examples of taxation decision, legislation and case law.

Published annually, the latest (83rd) edition has also been updated to take into account the changes introduced in the 1985 Finance Act.

A book for the professional rather than the beginner, it costs £12.95.

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# Science Parks

There is a renewal of interest in science parks in Britain and other European countries, following the concept that has long proved popular in the US. But the big test for these European schemes is whether technological developments can be successfully translated into new industrial applications.

## Concept wins new lease of life

By Anthony Moreton  
Regional Affairs Editor

FIVE YEARS ago British proponents of the science park concept were almost in despair at the inability or unwillingness of universities to take up the idea that had proved so successful in the US.

Cambridge, through Trinity College, had accepted the initiative put forward in the late 1960s by the then prime minister, Mr (as he then was) Harold Wilson, and was developing the first stage of its park Heriot-Watt in Edinburgh had picked up the suggestion earlier though it was later into development. For the rest, the initiative appeared to have fallen on very stony ground.

Todays all that has changed. It is hardly possible to visit a British campus without a science park, or a site for one, being pointed out. Eager to climb on to what is seen to be a lucrative bandwagon, developers and agencies and even large companies proudly parade their offspring—many of them distant from sites of higher learning.

There is equal activity elsewhere in the world. No other single country has yet approached the level of development in either the US, or even the UK but most European industrial countries now have at least one or two parks.

The same is true further east. Singapore has started a park and neighbouring Malaysia and nearby Thailand hope to do so. Sciences have started in Australia. Notably in Perth. Canada has a discovery park attached to the University of Vancouver; and the Japanese have 17 in the pipeline, though only Kumamoto is in operation.

All this is a far cry from the early 1950s when a young Mr Hewlett and a young Mr Packard joined forces on land

made available by Stanford University in California and put the whole show on the road.

The Stanford success, combined with Route 128 around Boston and others in the US, notably the North Carolina research triangle, have persuaded many Europeans, especially in Britain, into believing that science parks could contain the crock of gold at the end of the rainbow. This belief became even more firmly held after 1981 when, in the wake of Government cutbacks in university funding, the colleges had to look elsewhere for part of their income.

"We in Britain have tended to be bedazzled by US hype," says Mr Ian Dalton, who runs the Heriot-Watt research park, and who is also chairman of the UK Science Park Association.

We overlook the fact that many US science parks took a long time to become established, and the movement was by no means an overnight success.

Even Stanford, admittedly a very large park of 729 acres, was not filled until 1979.

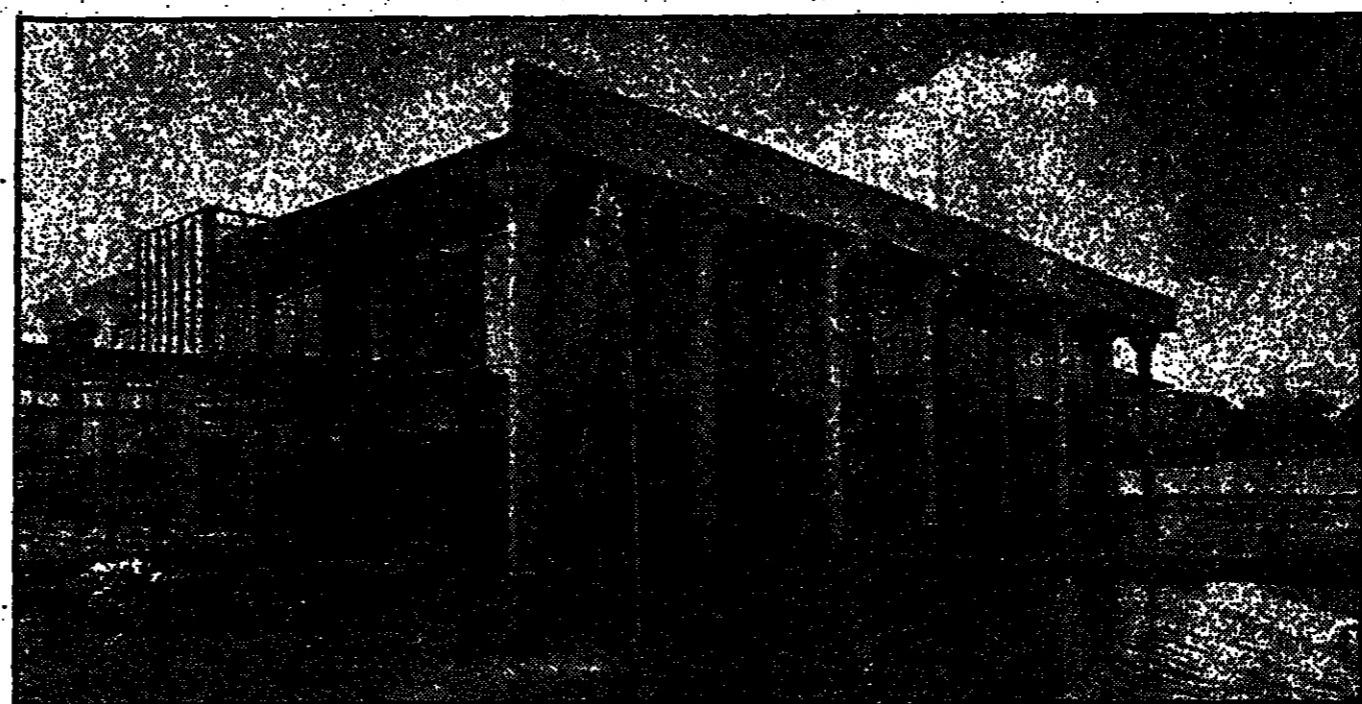
"Others simply have not taken off at all. Stanford has produced an enormous stimulus but at Rome, in New York State, the site remains empty."

Indeed, of the 80 or so parks in the US, it has been estimated by American researchers that no more than a quarter are involved in research-related activities. The rest are industrial parks, part of a commercial development allied to a university. Stanford itself started as a way of developing land to the benefit of the university, and now has a number of very large manufacturing concerns on it.

This path is not acceptable to many British universities related science parks.

"Our philosophy is to offer a setting where activities linking university research and industrial application can take place," Mr Dalton says.

"Our own park at Heriot-Watt is not a separate entity from the university. It is one aspect of the technology trans-



Innovative building design at Warrington-Runcorn's Birchwood Science Park. The building was developed by Engineering Polymers

for that goes on here. If a company on the park gets to the point where it begins to be involved in mass manufacture then we would expect it to move on, to find a larger home somewhere else."

This view is widespread among British science parks. It is not, however, a universal view (the Cambridge park has a couple of large manufacturing concerns) and appears not to be accepted in many European parks. The huge Sofianopolis park at Valbonne in France—12 sq miles—is 25 miles from the University of Nice, with which it has few links. Technology transfer is limited.

It is, however, part of a wider dream. The French authorities would like to see the whole of the southern coastline from Toulouse across to Trieste in Northern Italy developed into a super-Silicon valley. Behind the narrower British definition lies a difference in approach compared with the US and Europe. The universities that have formed the UK Science Park Association have defined a park as being a place where "a collection of high-technology industrial companies or research institutes are situated in attractive, well landscaped surroundings, developed to a very low density situated near a major scientific university and enjoying significant opportunities of interchange with that university. They are a means of bringing suitable industry and applied

research close to the sources of scientific progress."

Such a definition satisfies Cambridge, Heriot-Watt, Bradford, Aston, Liverpool, Manchester and Warwick, for example, but it leaves other parks not connected to seats of higher education running at alleged intellectual elitism.

In Britain the big increase in interest in science parks by British universities in the past four or five years was largely stimulated by the 1981 Government cuts. By 1982 the second wave of parks was coming off the drawing board—Surrey and Southampton among them—and now there is a third wave about to get in on the act—including a second Cambridge park under the aegis of St John's College and a development by Brunel University.

The second wave was different in character to the first, which really only comprised Cambridge and Heriot-Watt.

Americans are either amused or astonished at such distinctions. If a project pushes forward the frontiers of science or technology, and then turns into a large-scale operation, such as Wang or Polaroid did, so much the better.

The Americans want to develop whole areas, such as around Stanford, or Route 128, around Boston, around Georgia Tech in Atlanta, and in the North Carolina research triangle, in the hope that this will lead to mushrooming employment opportunities at the frontier of technological advance.

Only one such area has

appeared in the UK, around Cambridge, and that has been created more by the centripetal force of the university than the science park itself. What has become known as the Cambridge phenomenon was in existence well before the science park became established.

It is thought there are at least six second-wave parks in existence and more than six, including the first medical park, allied to St Bart's Hospital in London, in the third wave. By the end of 1988 the association expects to have 20 members.

There are, according to Mr Dalton, a further 37 possible parks, including some in university cities, such as Oxford, which are not, or not yet, university linked. Many of these may not survive, however, he believes.

There are a lot more. Some, such as Aztec West near Bristol, are really no more than property developments. Some, such as those associated with Huddersfield Polytechnic or the Bolton College of Further Education, come near to the association's definition and would certainly be included if they were in the US.

What eventually matters, of course, is not how a science park is defined or how it operates but whether it succeeds in pushing forward technology transfer in the UK and elsewhere. Too many inventions, such as liquid crystalography at Hull, or video recorder technology at York, have been turned into industrial advances by the Japanese. If only a slice of this action from the work now being undertaken on parks of all sorts from Aberdeen to Plymouth could be translated into industrial application, the gainer would be the British economy.

Lord Young: he will highlight the growing contribution of science parks to the national economy at next Friday's conference of the UK Science Park Association

## Forum to consider role of UK developments

THE first conference of the United Kingdom Science Park Association will be held in London next Friday. The conference is intended to be established as an annual event.

The conference, organised in association with accountants Peat Marwick, will seek to explore the contribution of science parks to the economy—regional as well as national—and consider the property, business support and finance requirements of tenant organisations.

The growing importance of the science parks sector is reflected in the fact that over the past four years 19 parks have been established, according to the UKSPA, and a further 17 are in the planning stage.

The opening address will be given by Lord Young, Secretary for Employment, and subsequent speakers will look at the role of the parks in industrial development, their role in relation to their local authority, developing the right property for the market and financing parks.

The UKSPA was formed in 1984 to act as a national forum for the interchange of information and experience between those most directly involved in the planning and management of those parks having links with a university or institute of higher learning.

There are at present 20 members and associate member

organisations. Peat Marwick has maintained a close involvement with the movement over several years.

The chairman of the UKSPA is Mr Ian Dalton, of Heriot-Watt Research Park, Edinburgh, and the secretary is Mr David Rowe, of the University of Warwick Science Park, Coventry.

The conference schedule in brief is as follows:

10 am Lord Young: The contribution of science parks to the national economy.

Professor Donald Mackay, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh: The growth of science parks and their role in industrial development.

11.30 Ian Page, Bradford: The role of the university and its science park to Bradford's economic strategy; Dr Nick Segal, Segal Quince Wicksteed: Science parks—agencies for change; Professor Mark Richmond, Manchester University: Our objectives for Manchester science park.

2.15 Tony Pender, English Estates: Developing the right property for the market; David Rose, Warwick University: Financing the property component.

3.45 Kim Heyworth, Peat Marwick: Finance for science park companies; John Carson, Aston science park: Management support for tenants; Arthur Rimmer, Merseyside innovation centre: Finance and management needs of new innovations.

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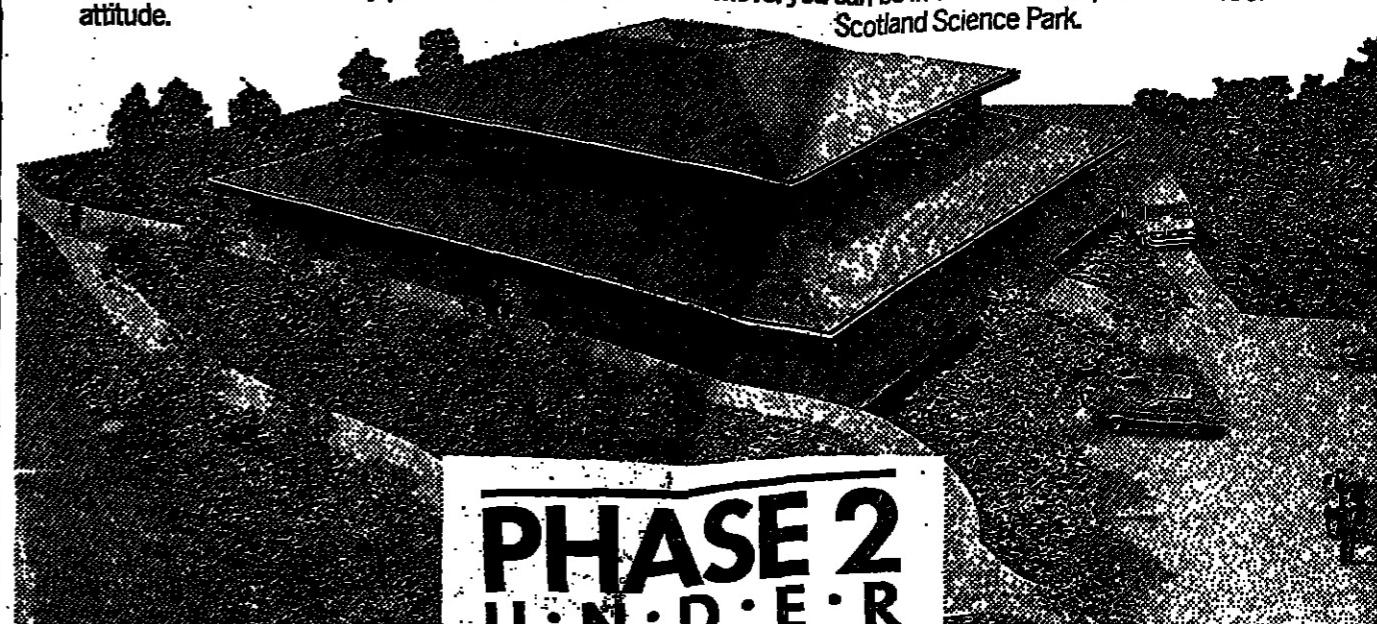
Together with the skill, support and business counselling experience of the SDA, the Science Park package is a powerful one.

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A report on the state of play at Cambridge Science Park

# 50 FIFTY UP 50

The rules of what became Association Football were first codified by a representative gathering of students at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1848 — two years before Clerk Maxwell entered the College and nearly two centuries after Newton did so. Sadly the College has no close connections with the rules of cricket, but as the high spots of the 1985 cricket season fade into memory, it is pleasant to record that Trinity's 130 acre Cambridge Science Park is scoring strongly and has passed its half century of occupiers. They include in phases I-3 (82 acres)...

Adder Technology	Data Analysis and Research	Noblesight
Agricultural Genetics	Dataspace	Optronics
Alps Systems	Dataspace Medical	Organon Laboratories
Altex Automation	Gill Jennings & Every	Organon Tokina
Aries Computers	Goodfellow Metals	Owl Micro-communications
Astromed	Hawkins (R.B.) and Associates	Pafra
Cambridge Communication	IBM (UK)	Potterton Energy Consultants
Cambridge Consultants	Intermet Laboratories	Prelude Technology Investments
Cambridge Electronic Design	Investors in Industry	Quidos
Cambridge Innovation Centre	Laser-Scan Laboratories	Rhombus Systems
Cambridge Interconnection Technology	Lintech Instruments	Rider-French Consulting
Cambridge Life Sciences	LKB Biochrom	Signal Processors
Cambridge Micro Computers	Marconi Applied Research Laboratory	Synaptics
Cambridge Online Systems	Microtronic Systems	Systec
Cambridge Radiation Technology	Mobira	Tadpole Technology
Cambridge Robotics	Monotype Advanced Development	Torus Systems
CANTAB Group	Microelectronics Research Laboratory (University of Cambridge)	Trinity Centre
Cefiro	Napp Laboratories	Ultra Violet Products
Coherent (UK)		Vaisala (UK)
Computer One		Voice Systems International

Fourteen of these companies have expanded their Park premises in recent years.

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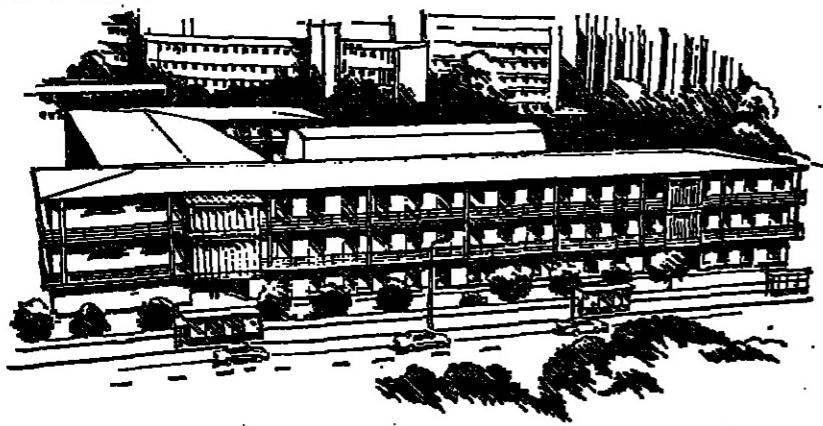


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For further details contact: J. Jeffers, South Bank Technopark Ltd., 90 London Road, London SEL Tel: 01-928 2900.

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## WEEKEND FT REPORT

### Innovation centres

# A marriage of private and public funds



In Continental Europe there is a fresh awareness of the importance of science parks. Above: Science Park Twente, located at Enschede, Netherlands

### US and European comparisons

## Contrast in cultural and entrepreneurial values

THERE is a fundamental difference between the science park movement in the US compared to the movement in Europe. The Europeans, particularly the British, take the view that science parks are places where technology transfer is the prime reason for the link between university and company.

If the company on a British science park reaches the point where it begins to become interested in, or involved in, manufacturing processes then many of the parks would want that company to move somewhere else.

In the US the whole object of a science park is to take scientific and technological advance and turn it into commercial reality.

There is a difference of cultural and entrepreneurial values, according to Mr Russell Cox, chairman of MIT Enterprise Forum, of Boston, a noted commentator on the science park scene in the US.

"It is not a matter of Europeans being unable to invent things or produce thrids. They can do it as well as people in the US," he says.

"What they do not do is turn those inventions into things with the same rapidity. We do not lay down rules about what should or should not be produced on a park. We just believe that if a company can grow, then good luck to it."

The result has been that in the US many of the larger science parks — there are said to be over 80 of them — are not parks at all. They do not have gates through which workers pass, or boundary walls. In many cases American science parks are areas which have been largely taken over by high technology-related concerns.

The most obvious example of this is Route 128, around Boston. The first specific "park" may have been attached to Stanford University, which subsequently spawned into California's silicon valley.

But the first area to be developed was undoubtedly the hinterland around Boston's Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The science-park movement expanded very rapidly out of California and Massachusetts.

The important factor in the expansion, according to Mr Cox, was not just university association but desirable living environments.

### Environments

"Scientific laboratories grow, and science parks succeed, in areas where scientists want to live. The living environments of both Boston and San Francisco include good recreation, nearby oceans and mountains, attractive residential suburbs, a full range of cultural activities, moderate climates and good educational facilities."

It is therefore no surprise that research parks have been successfully established in places such as Orlando, Florida; Austin, Texas; Phoenix, Arizona; the research triangle in North Carolina; and Salt Lake City in Utah.

It is also no surprise that places such as Knoxville, Tennessee; Huntsville, Alabama; and Rome, New York State, have failed to capitalise on their otherwise attractive scientific inducements.

Knoxville had many attractive features and might have been considered a good candidate for a science park. Apart from the university, the atomic research facility at Oak Ridge has been in existence for 40 years. But the town has signally

failed to develop or attract high-technology industry on any significant scale.

A high-class scientifically-inclined university certainly helps attract high-technology industry. MIT is a case in point. The US National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) put its electronics laboratory next door to MIT. A major Westinghouse research facility and the Naval Training Equipment Centre deliberately chose to be near the Central Florida University.

Such major institutions have a follow-my-leader effect, drawing in other concerns in the same field. According to one report, 80 enterprises in the San Francisco area trace their origins to Fairchild Semiconductor, for example.

American science parks have relied heavily on their successful development on the existence of skilled labour. Many of the older industrial towns, especially in New England, have attracted high-technology concerns largely because they had such labour following the closure of older-established industries, especially in textiles.

Nevertheless, all these factors could have been present and research parks might still not have succeeded, according to Mr Cox, had it not been for the entrepreneurial factor — "We don't look on failure in quite the same light as people in Europe do."

"Bankers often prefer people who have failed. It shows character to get up off your knees and try again."

More science parks in the US have probably started and failed than have started and succeeded. But the movement is healthy and is now spawning into new areas with remarkable speed.

TONY MORETON

### New European plans

## Projects on a grand scale

CONTINENTAL EUROPE has only recently become fully aware of the importance of science parks, but with this awareness it is now contemplating projects on a grandiose scale.

The French would like to create a high-technology sunbelt from Toulouse to Trieste, with the main emphasis naturally on the area to the west of the Italian border. There are plenty of plans on paper for this idea but little has so far occurred on the ground.

Belgium, too, has big plans to create not just a science park at Louvain, linked to the Catholic university, but also to develop the area into a small town.

Some 300 acres along the Brussels-Namur - Luxembourg autoroute have been set aside for development which is anticipated will expand the population to 50,000 by the year 2,000. By then there will be 15,000 students located there. The idea is to encourage the interface between university and industry: the park would include production facilities based on research concerns.

A start has been made on this project, with around 40 concerns in operation, employing 1,000 people. This is very large by comparison with British parks where only the longer-established Cambridge park could be compared with these numbers. But it must be questioned whether, at the moment, the area is little more than an industrial park, a development to utilise land.

Another venue to have made an encouraging start is West Berlin's Technical University. Faced by a lack of space for research facilities, the university took over a redundant fac-

tory and, over the last two years, has attracted at least 30 concerns in the areas of robotics, data processing and production technology.

The Berlin Centre for Innovation and New Enterprises is not unlike Warwick's Science Park in concept, offering office services, central administration available to all concerns and conference facilities.

Several other West German projects are at an advanced-planning stage, most notably those at Wilhelmshaven, Stuttgart and the Fraunhofer Institut at Karlsruhe.

The movement now spreads from north to south — from Lund, where the University of Malmö is making good progress and at Gothenburg, where a site is being sought for a park — to Barri in the south of Italy and Valencia in Spain.

The Gothenburg park, sponsored by the Chalmers Innovation Center, has a history of spin-off companies on which to base its hopes. The university actively supported this spin-off by advising members of the academic staff who wanted to branch into industry, by running seminars and courses and by setting up an innovation building.

The specific intention of the Italians is to encourage technological entrepreneurship. The first park came into being with the Tecnompolis Novus Ortus in Valenzano, near Bari. Others are being established in Venice and Trieste but some hover on the borderline between science parks and innovation centres.

The fact that the first of the parks was set up in Bari was no coincidence: it was seen as part of the Government's aim of developing the Mezzogiorno. It might be fanciful to imagine

it will, as the Italians claim, "develop the area into the forefront of European information society," but at least the authorities at the Tecnompolis Novus Ortus realise that the creation of new concerns has to be undertaken gradually in an area that is largely populated by an unskilled peasant workforce.

In Holland, the University of Utrecht is planning to set up a science park, while Eindhoven would like to reduce its dependence on the giant Philips multinational. In Delft, the University of Technology is investigating ways of setting up an information-transfer scheme.

Meanwhile, in France the giant Sophia-Antipolis at Valbonne receives a lot of publicity for its grandiose plans, but technology transfer is not very prominent in them.

Mr Pierre Lafitte, president of the Association Sophia-Antipolis at the Ecole des Mines in Paris, claims there are already 5,000 workers on the site, although outside observers doubt whether many of these people are involved at the interface between technology and industry. It is undoubtedly true that the area has the highest concentration of high technology industry in the country.

Mr Lafitte has further forecast that some 1,200 acres will be set aside for the site and that, eventually, around 30,000 people will be working on it, which would put most science parks in the world into the shade. (Outside a few in the US).

Elsewhere in France, work is going ahead on parks in Lyons and Nancy.

T.M.



An artist's impression, above, of a section of Wavertree Technology Park, Liverpool. Seen below is the Plessey Crypto headquarters at Wavertree, where 300 people are employed on the manufacture of communication systems.



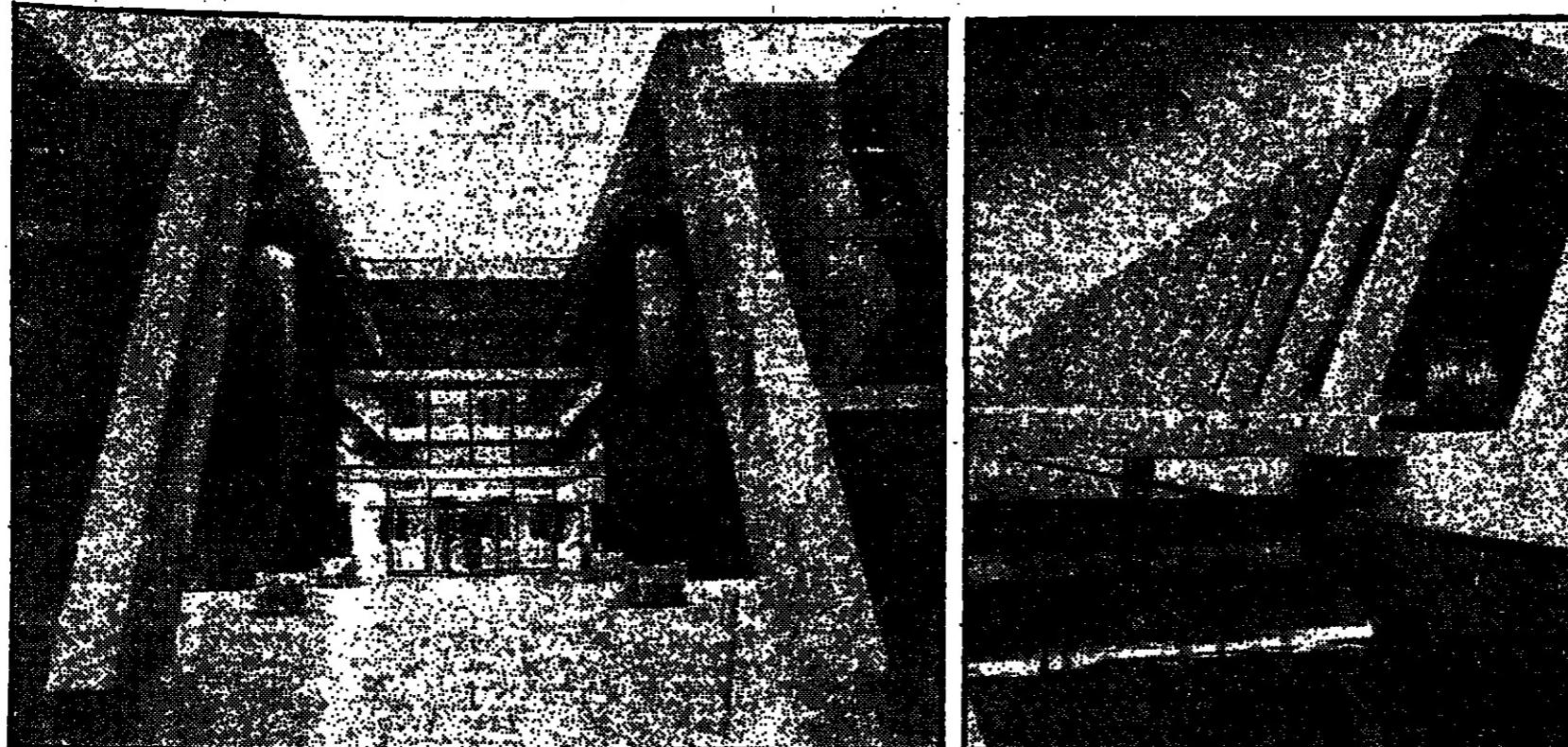
### New facilities...

The Cefn Llan Science Park, Aberystwyth has facilities for links with the University of Wales mainframe...  
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## • WEEKEND FT REPORT •

Efforts to establish science parks in Britain's two oldest university cities have met with very different results, as RHYS DAVID reports here.

Pictured right: the entrance to Napp Laboratories futuristic complex at Cambridge Science Park. The £20m centre houses the pharmaceutical company's research, production and distribution facilities. Napp is a pioneer company in the field of release-controlled drugs for the treatment of such conditions as heart disease, asthma, arthritis and cancer pain. Also pictured another view of the Napp complex



Cambridge

## Setting the pace for UK projects

**I**N THE past few weeks another landmark has been passed by the Cambridge Science Park. The number of companies on the 50-hectare site, the inspiration and model for similar schemes up and down the UK, is now more than 50 and the total number of people employed already exceeds 1,500.

For Cambridge's many imitators the question is whether this success is reproducible, or whether the Cambridge phenomenon is peculiarly to do with the outstanding reputation of the university, coupled with the acknowledged shrewdness with which the development has been managed by its sponsor, Trinity College, and in particular its bursar, Dr John Bradfield.

The companies that have moved to the site offer perhaps the best evidence. In the case of Napp Laboratories, which occupies a striking glass and concrete high-tech building academic excellence was clearly a factor, and contacts made by the company—by far the biggest on the site with total employment of more than 300—have already proved "exciting and informative" in the words of its research director, Dr Stewart Leslie.

### Advantages

Various academics are helping the company on a consultancy basis on concepts it was already exploring. The next phase, Napp hopes, will be for academics to begin bringing in ideas of their own.

Since coming to Cambridge, Napp—a pioneer in the field of controlled-release drugs for the treatment of conditions such as asthma, heart disease, arthritis and cancer pain—has moved into a new field, biological sciences, where it hopes to make significant advances in the field of contraception and fertility.

International groups in fact now account for roughly a quarter of the companies on the park. Apart from Napp, there is IBM; a total of four subsidiaries of the Dutch Akzo group; Mobira, the Finnish mobile communications company; and LKB Biochrom of



Delegates from Hong Kong and Chinese pharmaceutical companies visit Napp Laboratories at Cambridge

made has been Trinity, which exerts a largely unseen, but nevertheless powerful influence over the park.

"The college's own links with science and industry across the university have enabled it to provide an introduction into the university system," comments Mrs Lindy Beveridge, who acts as a college spokesman for the park.

The college has used income generated from the park to establish a launching fund to support joint research between university departments and companies. Under the scheme a programme is agreed by the two sides and a researcher is taken on to the company's payroll. He or she is then expected to divide his time between the university and the company, with benefits from his work accruing to both parties.

Among the tasks that Cambridge Robotics has undertaken have been design work for another company on the park, Datapac, which makes a black box for monitoring the performance of production lines operating under critical time/temperature relationships.

Datapac's product originated in the US at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was brought to the UK by the company's managing director, John Bates. He chose Cambridge for another reason, which has become important in its success: it was seen as an agreeable place in which to live as well as to make contacts.

The catalyst helping to create the environment in which connections of this sort can be

Trinity's own presence on the park is deliberately low-key with administration carried out for it by Bidwells, a Cambridge firm of chartered surveyors. There is no central administrative unit but instead there are common facilities in the form of a bar and small meeting rooms where individuals from different companies can mix. This month has also seen the opening of a new innovation centre providing 20 small units of accommodation for starter companies, and common facilities.

Very importantly, too, for incoming companies, the college, through Bidwells, has taken over the burden of securing planning approval. Applications are jointly vetted to make sure they conform to the types of activity considered appropriate—in general, a large research element—and are forwarded to the planning authorities.

The park, however, has, according to Segal Quince's Nick Segal, become a visible symbol to the outside world that high technology industry is flourishing in Cambridge and has given status and confidence to the sector in the area.

Other factors are now also coming into play to sustain the momentum which has developed. The growth of high

short lease of three years or have buildings put up to their own requirements on a 25-year lease. Ground leases, extending to 125 years, are also available.

The science park, as Segal Quince and Partners, a Cambridge firm of consultants points out, is in fact only a part of the Cambridge phenomenon—*“Moreover, there are more than 300 high-tech companies in and around the city and many of these were established before the Trinity venture got off the ground. A further 30-40 are being added each year.”*

Trinity itself has virtually exhausted the land available to it on the present science park site. It has other land in East Anglia, including sites *“...to Felixstowe docks which is intended for industrial development. With other towns in the region such as Thetford and Bury St Edmunds interested in attracting spin-off from Cambridge, there is talk of a possible high tech corridor developing in the region.”*

technology industry has, for example, produced a growing network of technicians available to help start up businesses, though there are some signs of labour shortages and these could prove a limiting factor on future growth.

Local sources of venture capital, such as Cambridge Venture Capital, have also begun to spring up to provide financial backing for new ideas, supplementing the work done by the banks and, in particular, Barclays, one of the main backers of the earliest science park schemes. Merchant bankers, Singer and Friedlander, has also set up in the city, and 31 is also active in support of new ventures, along with other venture capital funds, such as Advent.

With the development of road links, such as the M25 and M11, and with Stansted about to be developed as London's third airport, the area's communications with the rest of the world are also set to improve dramatically.

The weight of evidence would seem to suggest that many of these circumstances will not readily be found in the UK outside Cambridge and that success on a similar scale is likely only in one or two other centres.

Cambridge's success, however, may have reached the point where it is self-sustaining. Other colleges are proposing their own science parks, with St John's set to develop a site opposite the Trinity park.

Trinity itself has virtually exhausted the land available to it on the present science park site. It has other land in East Anglia, including sites *“...to Felixstowe docks which is intended for industrial development. With other towns in the region such as Thetford and Bury St Edmunds interested in attracting spin-off from Cambridge, there is talk of a possible high tech corridor developing in the region.”*

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### Oxford

## Still hopeful

FROM THE list of university cities and towns with linked science parks, one name has hitherto been conspicuously absent.

In Oxford a number of schemes have been put forward and there is a commercial development calling itself Oxford Science Park several miles away at Abingdon. One of the most promising projects drawn up for the city area itself, however, has been bogged down for three-and-a-half-years in a fruitless wrangle with the British Rail Property Board.

From an original list of eight sites, Science Parks Limited (SPL), run from Oxford by Noel Hodson, a consultant in new ventures and technology transfer chose 11 acres of land, owned by BR around Oxford Station, as its preferred location. Semi-derelict, the site has been on the market for 28 years, with strong claims to be Oxford's best-known eyesore.

More importantly it is one of the last available sites within the city within cycling distance of the university's laboratories and colleges.

SPL's bid to develop the site was rejected two years ago in favour of a proposal by Beaconsfield Estates for a supermarket and housing. With no scheme of this nature getting under way, however, partly because of BR's planning objections, BR's Property Board has recently terminated its agreement with Beaconsfield, opening the way for new schemes to be considered again.

It is at this point that SPL had been hoping—and indeed still hopes in spite of some new

setbacks—to re-enter the fray. There is general support, Hodson points out, from both the city and the university for a science park that could in broad terms be described as on-campus, or, at any rate, not too far off-campus, and his own scheme has backing from Trafalgar House, 31, Barclays Pension Trust, and Stamford University, operators of one of the most successful US parks.

They have all been attracted by what is, by British standards, a relatively unconventional centre, termed by Hodson "a research science park."

This aim would be not so much to attract manufacturing companies anxious to capitalise on proximity to the university, even where these companies were proposing to carry out significant research activities.

These would be more suited to housed, it is felt, in the various other parts which up to 80 other developers are proposing elsewhere in the Oxford area.

Among these are BL which has been seeking permission to develop its SU-Butes site in North Oxford.

Instead, the SPL centre would provide a half-way-house between the academic and industrial world where the university's scientific establishment would find the right environment for commercialising scientific projects. It would also act as a marketplace, according to Hodson, where potential backers from all over the world could come and be shown a variety of products and projects being developed by different tenants.

Many projects which currently go abroad because of lack of

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– in billion DM –

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Liabilities in respect of banking operations	60.1
Bonds	5.1
Capital and reserves	3.1

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## WEEKEND FT REPORT

### West Midlands

## Rising demand for space

THE PACE of building and letting is quickening among the West Midlands science parks based upon the Universities of Warwick, Aston and Birmingham.

Warwick, a partnership between the university and the councils of Coventry, Warwickshire and the West Midlands county, was fairly late into the market. But since the Prime Minister opened the first £1.25m phase of the Barclays Bank venture centre a year last February, demand has tended to outstrip the pace of development.

All the high technology units provided through a subsequent £1m West Midlands County Council scheme have also been taken. There are now 27 companies operating on the park and the ten units of a £1.2m Coventry City Council scheme have been let with the building work still only half complete.

A boost for the science park has come from the Government identifying Warwick as well placed to become a national focus for the development of advanced technology. A key factor in the choice of Warwick is the work of Kumar Bhattacharyya, professor of manufac-

turing systems, in attracting private sector capital to the university through joint projects with companies such as Austin Rover, Lucas and Rolls-Royce.

Among the big names attracted to the park are three from the US: Westinghouse, with its manufacturing systems, Computervision, suppliers of computer-aided design equipment, and Automatic, which is pioneering intelligent robot systems.

The bulk of the present companies at Warwick are involved in computer-aided design, robotics or new manufacturing techniques. Mr David Rowe, the science park director, reports the spread of companies is widening. He points to Thikol Chemicals, which is establishing a research, development and administrative headquarters in a purpose-built £1m building.

The pace of take-up of accommodation means that Warwick is already negotiating to acquire land beyond the present 24 acres. Among future developments, Barclays Bank is to fund a 9,000-sq-ft extension to its original 27,000-sq-ft venture centre.

Mr Rowe says institutional

funds are likely to be available under an initiative with investment bankers JMG seeking £5m for financing pre-set deals on 10 acres of land likely to be developed over the next three to five years.

Aston Science Park is operated by Birmingham Technology, a private company owned jointly by Birmingham City Council, Lloyds Bank and Aston University.

### Flexible units

There are now 26 companies in the park with the first 40,000 sq ft of accommodation almost fully let. More than half the space is already committed in the second phase of units, completed recently and totalling 45,000 sq ft.

Aston aims to offer a wide range of highly flexible accommodation from small incubator units suitable for research and prototype work through to development land for larger venture units.

The 55-acre site, just off the famous M6 motorway and spaghetti junction, is next to the university which boasts 350 consultants, working in four faculties with £10m of grant funded research equipment in

170 laboratories.

Mr Derek Harris, director of finance, claims that: "Birmingham technology is unique in the UK in managing its own funds to provide venture capital to tenants, ranging from a few thousand to several million pounds."

He adds that the company will also help in dealing with clearing banks, grants and loan schemes and that there is direct access to local, national and European government assistance.

Aston can point with some pride to at least one company that has prospered on the science park. Aston Technology, designing and building computers, has expanded successfully and is moving to a new 10,000 sq ft unit.

Another big tenant about to officially open its 15,000 sq ft unit is Deltacon Systems, the Delta subsidiary developing and selling computer-aided design and manufacturing systems.

Birmingham University has established an Institute of Research and Development which, it argues, is not a science park in the loose sense of the term. Its role is seen not as simply providing land or build-



Aston Science Park offers a wide range of highly flexible accommodation for research and development projects.

ings for manufacturing, but as developing ideas and concepts from within the university to transfer the technology for commercial uses.

The first 1,200 sq ft phase of the institute building, due for completion next spring, was funded by Midland Bank, Birmingham City Council and the European Development Fund.

The space has already been allocated to six companies all of which spring out of research and development in the university, covering areas such as vaccine and immunology.

Funding for the next 1,200 sq ft phase which will be dedicated to biotechnology is currently being negotiated.

Another eight acres of land near to the in-tuition and main campus has been allocated for well-established large companies and independent research associations which might wish to be located close to the university or its medical centres. Apricot, the computer company, is likely to be the first on site with a £1m research building.

ARTHUR SMITH

## THE SURREY RESEARCH PARK

The Surrey Research Park is now firmly established as the premier site for Research and Development in the South East. Already B.O.C. Ltd., Grand Metropolitan Biotechnology Ltd., B.P. International Ltd. and three other R and D companies have taken up leases on Phase I.

Planning of Phase II is now underway and will offer accommodation to R and D organisations requiring from 1,000 sq ft to in excess of 20,000 sq ft. Phased delivery will begin in late 1986.

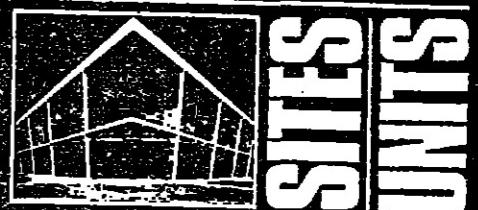
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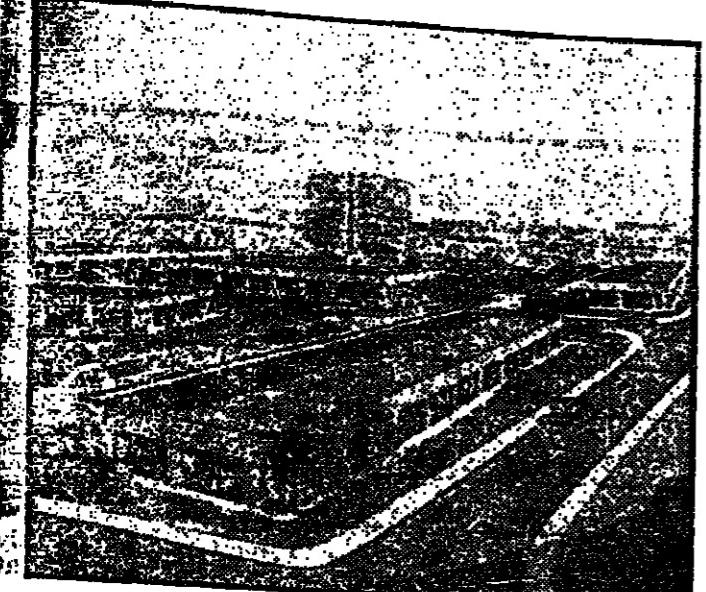
RHYS DAVID

TONY MORETON

## WEEKEND FT REPORT

North East of England

## Concept takes root



An artist's impression of the Listerhills Centre, located a mile from Bradford's commercial heart.

**Brunel**

## Go-it-alone park well-placed for expansion

**Brunel** IS a "third wave" park, linked to one of the newest and smallest of British universities.

If points were awarded to science parks on the basis of their location, then Brunel would score highly. It stands on the western edge of London, within minutes of three motorways—the M4, M25 and M40—and within three miles of Heathrow airport. It also stands near the centre of Utibridge, in a part of outer London that is booming. Property developers have been going up fast.

Blewett Packard, for example, the first name that comes to everyone's lips when science parks are mentioned, has taken an eight-storey building in the town and is contributing to projects at the university.

**Full control**

Brunel is going-it-alone with the development of its science park, of which phase one should be open by next April. It originally approached a major institution and the Greater London Council for help with the funding, but decided to undertake the development itself to keep full control over the project.

It borrowed £1m to undertake the necessary infrastructure and work on the first building began last spring. Four units comprising a total of more than 4,000 sq ft are going up of which letters-of-intent have already been received from three potential tenants—Air Products, the 600 Group and Campus Computers, a small concern that is engaged in computer work for the disabled.

If these three pursue their interest, a third of the space in the building will have been let even before marketing has been seriously launched. Mr Peter Russell, director of the park, is convinced other tenants will soon arrive.

"With our superb location, flexible design and links with the university it is inconceivable that Brunel could do anything but succeed," he claims, making it sound the

TONY MORETON

**Greater Manchester**

## Need for larger developments

SURROUNDED BY newly-planted trees an L-shaped, two-storey, smoked-glass building rose from its foundations last year near the University of Manchester. "Not before time" many people could be heard saying.

The Manchester Science Park is a late attempt to use hi-tech developments underpinned by the city's higher educational institutions as a tool for a long-term shift in the area's employment base. It has been up and running for a little over a year and houses eight companies employing 80 people. The science park has progressed quicker than some proponents expected but it needs to expand even faster.

Mr Derek Burr, chief executive of the managing company, expects its 24,000 sq ft to be full by next spring and has sought approval for the construction of a second building. The financing of such a second phase has

proved troublesome, though private developers and an urban development grant might come up trumps. Some industrialists in Manchester would prefer to see greater locally-based financial commitment to the science park's growth on the lines of the park based on Aston University, Birmingham.

The science park, the only one of its type in the conurbation is a partnership of Manchester City Council, the University and four private companies.

The city, with the aid of the Department of Environment's inner city programme, money provided the land and buildings, taking out a 35 per cent stake in the management company. The University paid for its 35 per cent shareholding. The balance of 30 per cent was split between Ferranti, Cliba-Geigy, Fothergill, and Harvey and Granada. Some £1.25m has been put into the science park,

excluding land.

University of Science and Technology has an option to buy part of the University's share.

Science Park Limited has a board of 12, some £200,000 of working capital (likely to be increased shortly) and a 12-year lease on its Enterprise House and the 16 acres of land included in the deal.

The science park's original concept was that the first phase would offer start-up accommodation for small companies and later phases would provide building plots for larger ones.

Mr Burr has helped persuade the board to accept that later phases should be organised in the same way as the first, though perhaps offering units larger than the range of 400 to 2,000 sq ft.

**Strong belief**

Everyone recognises the impact of the science park will be limited even in the medium term but Mr Burr is a great believer in the concept. "The aim is to transform the industrial base of the conurbation with something new," he says.

"It can only be long term because we are talking about small companies with high technology."

The park's eight companies,

with a ninth due shortly taking the occupied space to 12,000 sq ft, are linked by internal telephone to the University, UMIST and the business school.



Units at the Listerhills Centre, above, were let so fast that English Estates could not build them fast enough to meet the demand.

University has not created more business at Listerhills. One of them is Bradford University Software Systems (Buss), run by Mr David Burland. A former Bradford University academic.

While all of them are geared to providing facilities for academics ready to spin off into the commercial sector, while assisting each city's employment base in Bradford, Listerhills has the added task of bequeathing to Bradford a sharper, more modern and less dear image.

Its single storey, smoked-glass units next to the technologically-oriented university stand next to some of the West Yorkshire city's most derelict urban districts.

After a slow start letting the 42,000 sq ft first phase opened in April 1983. The units went so quickly that English Estates could not build the 23,000 sq ft second phase fast enough.

More than 80 per cent of the second phase is now reserved or under offer and the English Estates board has approved a further 10,000 sq ft of building. It foresees the development of another six acres in three to five years, raising the development's total area to 11.75 acres.

Listerhills management estimates that there are 250 people working at the science park. Nine out of 10 people who were involved in the initial formation of the companies live at Listerhills, live and still live in the Bradford commuting area.

With strengths in engineering, electronics and computers, it is perhaps surprising that the

Almost all of Newland's 25,000 sq ft first phase is either let or under offer and another 12,500 sq ft is planned. Rents are low, from £2.85 per sq ft.

One of Hull's benefits is a traditional "industrial" estate adjacent to Newlands where companies could move from the science park when they have achieved the necessary maturity.

Mountjoy, at Durham, differs from the other three in what it offers and what is seen as its role. Conceived initially as a centre for materials science it has been partly designed to support Durham's scientific community and elevate the university's importance in attempting to regenerate the north-east's economy.

With Durham University's strong emphasis on biotechnology, robotics and materials science, the new science park will be contracting out its research capability, which is unique among the northern science parks. Companies will be able to rent premises and carry out joint research and development projects with university staff.

The Mountjoy development totals 40,000 sq ft in a propeller-shaped structure with three two-storey wings. The University of Durham Industrial Research Laboratory has already taken one-sixth of the space on a 12-year lease at £23,000 a year base rent, which indicates the science park's orientation towards research and development.

NICK GARNETT



## At the Mountjoy Centre, Durham, (above), near the university's science campus, the Mountjoy project is discussed by Prof Fred Holliday, Vice Chancellor (left), and Mr Tony Pender, chief executive of the developers, English Estates; with them is Dr Eric Howells, director of the university's new Industrial Research Laboratories, the centre's first tenant.

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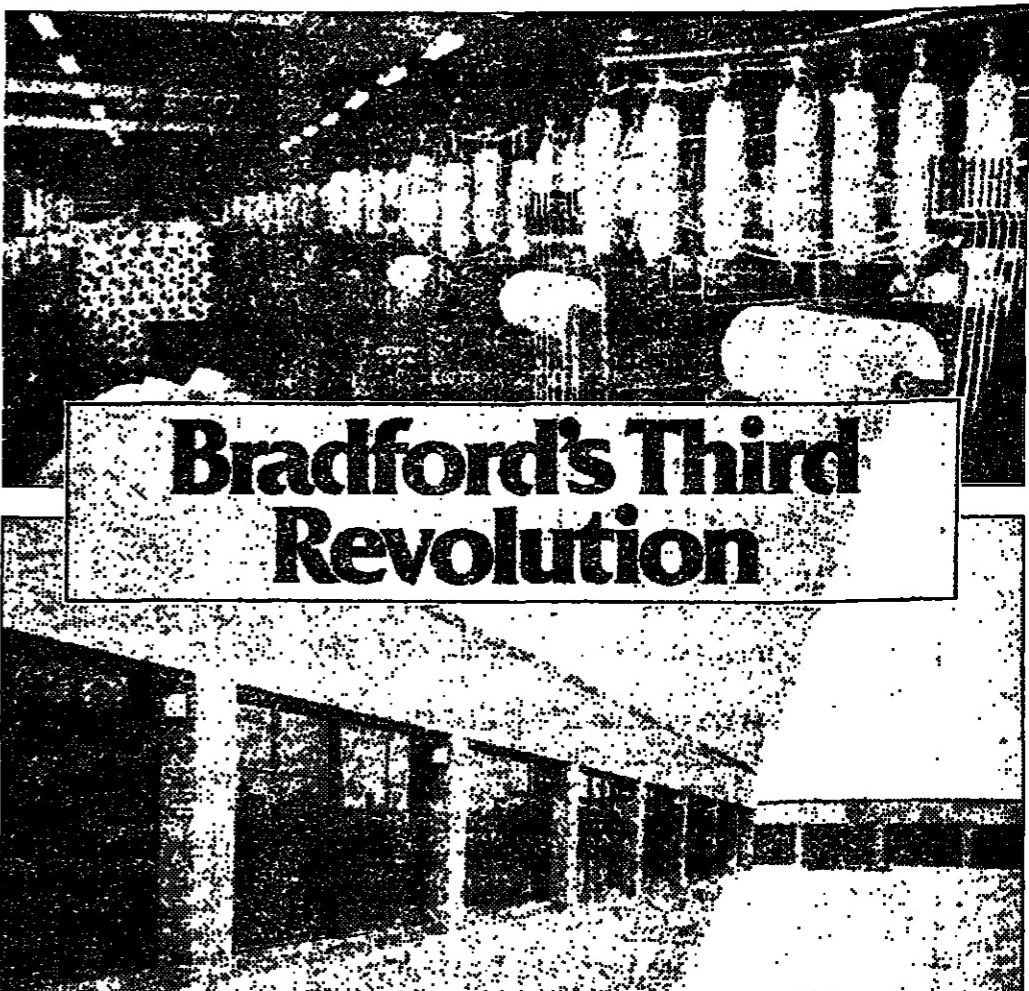
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of the city, right next door to Bradford University with its new established Micro-Electronics Centre. Phase 1 of the Science Park development is now oversubscribed and Phase 2 is progressing at a pace.

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Investee companies are expected to locate on Aston Science Park where BTL offer the services of an in-house management team able to draw upon wide industrial and financial experience to provide help in key areas of management which a rapidly growing company may not yet possess. The addition of extremely flexible leases and accommodation, and the full technological support of Aston University make for a unique concept.

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NICK GARNETT

# The main British science parks

SUMMARY COMPILED BY TONY MORETON AND LORNE BARLING

University	Name	Contact	Partners with University	Open	Area (Acres)	Buildings completed (sq ft)	Buildings under construction (sq ft)	No. on park	University	Name	Contact	Partners with University	Open	Area (Acres)	Buildings completed (sq ft)	Buildings under construction (sq ft)	No. on park
ABERYSTWYTH	Cefn Llan Science & Technology Park	Russell Jones 0970 3111	Mid Wales Development	Feb 1985	6	3,000	4,000	1	KENT	Kent Research & Development Centre	Bernard Watts 0227 668222		Feb 1986	10	—	12,000	2
ASTON	Aston Science Park	Harry Nicholls 021 359 0981	City of Birmingham Lloyds Bank	1983	122	115,000	27,500	26	LIVERPOOL	Merseyside Innovation Centre	Arthur Rimmer 051 7080123	Merseyside G.C. Liverpool Poly	1982	2	15,000	—	10
BATH	White Horse Business Tech. Park	G. Garland R. Pugh 0224 63111	West Wilts. D.C.	April 1986	50	—	14,000	3	LOUGHBOROUGH	Loughborough Technology Centre	Roger Say 0533 87131	Leics. C.C.	April 1984	3	22,000	—	14
BIRMINGHAM	Inst. of Research and Development	Prof. John Samuel 021 472 1301	City of Birmingham Midland Bank	Mar 1986	12	17,000	12,000	7	LONDON	South Bank Technopark	Jeff Jeffers 01 928 2900	Prudential	April 1985	2.4	75,000	28,000	19
BRADFORD	Listerhills	Lawrence West 0274 733466	English Estates Bradford City	Mar 1983		41,960			LEEDS	Springfield House	Phil Wilbourn 0302 66865	English Estates	June 1983	1.96	32,200	—	18
CAMBRIDGE	Cambridge Science Park	John Tweddle 0223 841841	Trinity College	1972	138	450,000	90,000	55	MANCHESTER	Manchester Science Park	Dr Derek Burr 061 2261000	Manchester City Ciba Geigy, Ferrand, Fothergill and Harvey, Granada Television	Dec 1984	15.5	24,000	—	5
DURHAM	Mountjoy Research Centre	John Holden 0355 44173	English Estates Durham City	Oct 1985	2.7	38,800	—	1	NOTTINGHAM	Highfields Science Park	John Webb 0602 506101	Nottingham City	Dec 1984	14.0	31,000	24,000	14
EAST ANGLIA	Univ. of East Anglia Science Park	Philip Lannigan 0603 55161	Alasdair McNicholl 041 946 7176	Feb 1984	12	10,000	—	4	ST. ANDREWS	St. Andrews Technology Centre	Marian Sherwood 0592 205171	SDA	Dec 1984	0.74	12,000	—	3
GLASGOW/ STRATHCLYDE	West of Scotland Science Park	David Rhodes 0642 765911	Scottish Development Agency	Sept 1983	72	45,000	—	11	SOUTHAMPTON	Chilworth Research Centre	John Stuart-Buttle 0703 767420	Southampton City	1984	26	8,000	46,000	18
HERIOT-WATT (Edinburgh)	Heriot-Watt Research Park	I. G. Dalton 031 449 5111	Richard Lister 0452 45311	1972	56	240,000	30,000	18	STIRLING	Stirling University Innovation Park	Robert Shanks 041 248 2700	SDA; Central Regional Council	Mar 1986	14	—	14,000	—
HULL	Newlands Centre	Phil Wilbourn 0302 66865	English Estates Hull City	Dec 1984	3.0	25,800	—	9	SURREY	Surrey Research Park	Dr Malcolm Parry 0432 579693	1984	70	70,000	120,000	7	
KEELE	Keeler University Science Park	Dr David Cohen 0782 621111	Newcastle under Lyme Council Staffs C.C.	Dec 1986	15	—	23,000	—	SUSSEX	Sussex Univ. Science Park	John Golds 0273 606755	—	Sept 1985	Undefined	4,500	11,500	5
									SWANSEA	Swansea Innovation Centre	Nigel Carnie 0792 536715	Welsh Dev. Agency	Feb 1986	3.4	—	22,400	—
									WARWICK	Univ. of Warwick Science Park	David Rowe 0203 418535	Coventry City; West Midlands C.C.; Warwickshire C.C.	Feb 1984	24	70,000	45,000	27

When collieries come to the end of their working lives they inevitably have to close. We at the National Coal Board are acutely aware of the impact this has on jobs.

Not least because we know that the workforce concerned still has an enormous amount to offer.

That's why we've set up NCB Enterprise, with the aim of creating new job opportunities. Of course, we don't expect you to start a business in a coalfield for no good reason.

So we've put together a unique package of inducements that include money, premises and a skilled workforce.

When you've finished reading this advertisement, weigh up the pros and cons for yourself. You could well conclude that the coalfields are now Britain's most attractive location for business development.

#### MONEY UP FRONT

One of our main strengths is that we can offer the businessman immediate finance, with favourable rates of interest and few formalities.

There is no need to invest first and claim later. NCB Enterprise can provide you with money in advance, thereby alleviating cash flow problems in the crucial early days.

Later on, we'll be able to offer you further financial support to help with additional growth and expansion.

To help create permanent new jobs we have £20 million available now - with more promised when needed. And we'll even help seek out the additional grants and loans you may be entitled to from other sources.

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Whether you need 1,000 sq. ft or 100,000 sq. ft we can help you.

## The colliery may be exhausted. The workforce is anything but.

And if you start from scratch and build a new factory, we'll even help with the spadework. You might also like to bear one other factor in mind.

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#### A SKILLED WORKFORCE

Mining men are resourceful, reliable and adaptable. They know the importance of safety procedures and teamwork.

In addition, the diversity of their skills may surprise you.

There are craftsmen adept in high technology. Technicians who are proficient in mechanical and electrical engineering. Others with experience in computers.

One factor, though is common to the entire workforce. A basic grounding in hard work.

#### SO FAR, SO GOOD

NCB Enterprise have now been in operation for a year.

We've already committed over £4 million in more than 180 business projects which are creating over 2,700 new jobs.

And there's no upper or lower limit to the propositions we'll consider.

If you'd like to know more about the opportunities for business in Britain's traditional mining areas, please send us the coupon below.



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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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FT4

NCB  
enterprise

THE JOB CREATION VENTURE OF THE NATIONAL COAL BOARD.



At Highfields Science Park, Nottingham (above), electronic medical equipment is checked at Warwick Instruments' unit. Below: discussions on computer software development and consultancy projects at BYG Systems unit, also at Highfields.



At Heriot-Watt Research Park, Edinburgh, Dr. John Colles of the Medical Laser Unit, carries out research with a gynaecological laser system. Heriot-Watt Research Park is run by Mr Ian Dalton, who is also chairman of the UK Science Park Association.

New opportunities...  
From just £2.00 per sq. ft. rental, you won't find it difficult to start up - or to expand.  
...in Mid Wales  
Ring Mid Wales Development - FREEPHONE NEW WALES.



IF THERE is a British club able to claim with some justice that its members have done "something rather than someone," it is the Royal Society, that most exclusive organisation to which every scientist in the land aspires.

Admission to Fellowship—members speak of "election to the Royal Society"—almost always requires the recognition by your peers that you have contributed something truly original to science. Fellowship entitles you to use the letters FRS after your name.

A few evenings ago, the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher—herself a member—entertained other Fellows at No 10 Downing St. "There has never been such a collection of brains in this place," her husband, Denis, is reported to have said.

Royal Society of what? you might ask. Its full title is Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge, and it claims a longer continuous existence than any other national academy in the world. It was founded as a learned society in 1660 and granted its first royal charter by King Charles II in 1662. The cognoscenti call it simply "The Royal."

There are only 1,000 Fellows of the Royal Society. Even to be considered for membership means that six Fellows—on their own—not on your initiative—must support an application which, even then, stands only one chance in 10 of being accepted in any given year.

Non-scientists are rare indeed among Fellows but they include royal princes and prime ministers who have won a second term of office, such as Sir Winston Churchill and Mrs Thatcher.

The Royal Society occupies an elegant white building in central London's Carlton House Terrace, close by the clubs of Pall Mall. As you enter you pass between busts of botanist Sir Joseph Banks, its longest-serving president (41 years), glowering at mathematician Isaac Newton, the second-longest (24 years), and the society's most illustrious son.

Banks, the founder of Kew Gardens, co-founder with Captain James Cook of Australia while on Royal Society expedition, and friend of King Charles III (an enthusiastic patron), also founded its tradition of summer soirees with his weekly breakfasts for scientists at his home in Soho Square.

The Royal Society underwent a radical change after his death. For nearly 200 years it was a club of influential amateurs, calling for wealth or position as well as intelligence, but no scientific qualifications. In 1847, the statutes were revised to require six Fellows to support each application; then, formal election by the council.

The induction of new Fellows each spring has much of the ceremony of a royal investiture, with families present to watch the signing of the Charter Book, the society's greatest

The Royal Society, bastion of science, exclusive club, elects a new president today

## Jolly good Fellows

treasure. It dates back to 1660 and the new Fellow's name rubs paper with kings, princes and such commoners as Christopher Wren, Edmund Halley, Clerk Maxwell, Kelvin and Rutherford.

It is a memorable occasion. "When you're first told, it's a great thrill," says Dr Cyril Hilsum, GEC's chief scientist. "And the ceremony is very moving—you're very conscious of the honour." Later, they ask you for £60 annual subscription; modest indeed for a club in St James's with a licensed restaurant, bedrooms, and a cachet that even Boodles or Whites must envy.

The staff run a business spending about £8m a year, of which two-thirds comes from government (as part of the £260m science budget) and the balance from the society, much of it through investments. At their head is the executive secretary, Dr Peter Warren, a geologist who came to the society in 1977 after a spell with the science secretariat in the Cabinet Office a short walk away. But the activities of staff and Fellows are differentiated sharply, even to the extent that no staff member—not even the executive secretary—can be elected to follow.

The Fellows represent the entire spectrum of academic science, blurring at the boundaries into such areas as engineering and medicine. They are a corpus of demonstrably original thinkers whose motto, from Horace's Epistles, establishes their independence of mind:

"And do not ask, by chance, what leader I follow or what godhead guards me. I am not bound to revere the record of any particular master."

As Britain's premier academy of science, the Royal Society speaks for British science at home and abroad.

Non-Fellows from all walks of science and technology are drawn into the myriad committees. Its activities overseas have forged formal bonds with the science communities of 46 countries.

The society does no research of its own in the laboratory sense. Once, the laboratories of the Royal Institution, a short walk away in Mayfair, were known as the "workhouse of the Royal Society," says Professor Sir George Porter, its director.

Nevertheless, the society has a lively involvement with research "in the field" of the traditional kind that once led to the discovery of Australia. Recent forays include the Geo-



Trevor Humphries  
Sir Andrew Huxley, the Royal Society's retiring president

traverse across Tibet. Another, more controversial kind of research involvement is its £5m programme investigating the causes of rising acidity of lakes and ground waters in Scandinavia.

The idea came from Lord Marshall, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board and a theoretical physicist, elected in 1971. In the mid-1970s, Marshall set a precedent when, as chief scientific adviser to the Department of Energy, he invited his club to criticise his newly-drafted energy and North Sea research programmes. No one in Whitehall ever had made such a request of the Royal before. "It was agreed on both sides that it was a very valuable exercise," says Sir Andrew Huxley, the society's retiring president.

Two years ago Marshall returned with another idea. As a scientist, he was quite unconvinced by the evidence on which those campaigning for tighter controls on coal burning were basing their case for curbing "acid rain." Would the Royal Society lend its authority and impartiality to the management of a new and more rigorous investigation? The cost would be met by the CEGB and the Coal Board.

The society took up the idea "with a good deal of enthusiasm," Sir Andrew says. "He's given us absolute freedom." The campaigners were furious, arguing that they already had all the evidence they needed. The society disagreed and has accepted full responsibility for the integrity of the new research—and for publishing it fully.

Sir Andrew says that, as president, he has received no criticism from Fellows for this initiative. For his part, it is one way he wants to see more use made of the society. "We treasure more than anything our independence."

For four of his five years in office, Sir Andrew has shared his working life equally between research in his laboratory at University College, London, and the president's splendid office overlooking the Mall and Green Park. In the past 12 months, though, his research has taken a back seat to a new post as Master of Trinity College, Cambridge (where Isaac Newton did much of his writing).

Today, he will hand over to a new president, who will be elected by the council this afternoon — St Andrew's Day. David Fishlock

As well as picking a Nobel laureate, the tradition is to alternate between the physical and biological sciences; this time, it is the former's turn.

The president-nominee is Sir George Porter, a fellow for 25 years. Once, the council would try to keep the name a close secret until after election, but it always leaked out.

Sir George might well be described as the Terry Waite of British science. Where Sir Andrew is shy and uneasy in the role of public spokesman for science — unlike some other members of his famous family, he admits — Sir George is outgoing and an adroit diplomat, acceptable as referee by the most antagonistic combatants in any controversy involving science.

In the past, change has come but slowly to the Royal Society. For Stephen Cox, a newcomer to its senior staff, who has lately returned from the British Embassy in Washington, it epitomises Britain's national problems in striking the right balance between its history and traditions and finding a future role. Under Sir George, change could be faster, although if that happens it will owe much to the careful preparations of recent years.

Sir George Porter is far too canny to commit himself on the future of the club before being elected formally as president. But there is one activity to which he is already deeply committed. This is the better public understanding of science—particularly among the professional classes.

This ignorance of science encourages anti-science campaigns on a vast canvas of topics from atomic energy to animal experiments. Sir George says, "Tell them there are atoms in something and they go off and demonstrate."

He has just been made chairman of a tripartite committee of the Royal Society, the Royal Institution (where he will remain a research professor) and the British Association for the Advancement of Science (of which he is president this year). This is the first time these three bodies—all concerned deeply with the health and welfare of science—have come together. The aim is to implement the conclusions of a recent Royal Society investigation of the public understanding of science, which found that the British science community itself must work a lot harder to bring science and technology to the public.

One of his main targets will be the British scientist. He is unhappy with the antics and eccentricities of many of those entertainers paraded regularly, especially on TV, as "experts" but points out that the genuine article often remains too aloof and resistant to any public exposure. Ideally, he would like to see more David Attenboroughs speaking across the whole spectrum of the subject.

David Fishlock



A Redoute lilac: a missed opportunity by the Getty

## Goal for Getty

NEXT WEEK the London auction houses move into top gear with both Sotheby's and Christie's holding their major winter sales of Impressionist and modern pictures, and Christie's offering prints from the Duke of Devonshire's collection at Chatsworth. Such a cornucopia of goodies is sure to attract the attendance of the Getty, the eminence gris, or perhaps the eminence rose, of the art world.

The Getty Trust has \$100m to spend this year. Its main rival in purchasing power among the American museums, Fort Worth, has less than \$10m. The National Gallery in London has a purchasing budget of £2.75m. Does the Getty, from its base at Malibu, California, represent a threat to Europe's art treasures? Are we in for a cultural rape which will make Duveen's efforts earlier this century look like mild scrumping?

The Aspen Institute in West Berlin this week held a seminar to debate the issue, with the chief executive of the Getty, Mr Harold Williams, answering critics from among Europe's museum bosses, including Sir David Wilson of the British Museum. Also in attendance were such interested parties as Tim Llewellyn of Sotheby's, representing the salerooms, and Julian Aznew, the dealers.

While Mr Williams managed to quieten many fears about the Getty's intentions, the arrival of a new type of collector, most forcefully represented in the Yuppie strain of youngish American millionaire, will have a more immediate impact. Because of its power—which seems destined to grow even greater, at least in the size of its budget—the Getty is falling over backwards to defray criticism. Over half its expenditure goes on various educational, computerising, conserving, grant giving and other services in the cause of art history. Its main adverse effect could well be in concentrating all the resources for scholarship in art history on the Californian coast. In comparison its buying programme, with around \$50m this year, seems almost hesitant.

It has traditionally bought in three areas—Old Masters, antiquities, and 18th century French furniture—although it is extending into photographs, and late 19th century pictures, and could well make a move into prints at the Chatsworth sale next week. But it seems to be keeping to its pledge not to compete if a national institution is after a major work of art for example it is held back from bidding for the Gospels of Henry the Lion in 1883. But this means little if prices are forced so high by Getty that a national museum has no chance of making a serious bid.

Its influence is also more pervasive away from the glare of the auction room. It only acquired seven of the 71 Chatsworth drawings in 1984 on the night (and was outbid when the prices it fixed for itself were topped by some private American buyers) but it has since bought more from dealers: they command high prices. To secure one rich collectors will move into new fields; for example the New York real estate millionaire, Ian Woodner's purchase of the Vasari page from Chatsworth for £3.24m. He wanted to put his collection into a higher sphere.

In a recent Sotheby's sale of Impressionists it was estimated that 40 of the people in the room were worth over \$100m. Many of these, or their representatives, will be in London next week. This picture could lead to some high prices—but in a very thin market. It only takes the disappearance of one big buyer to end a boom (this happened recently with Tiffany lamps). So, behind the headlines, the message remains: caveat emptor.

This is a strictly American phenomenon, just as the recent boom in the art market follows directly on the Wall Street boom, and the strength of the American economy. We are witnessing the arrival of the collector as super-star following on from the artist as superstar. Indeed some collectors seem happy to play up to the part as Douglas Kramer, for example, the producer of Dynasty, often attends Sotheby's sales in New York accompanied by glamorous actresses from his soap opera. The new collectors are in it for fun—they might, alternatively, have invested in a baseball team—but they intend to use their money, borrowing against the value of their art, to finance other deals.

Jeffrey Deitch of Citibank reckons that there are 15 major new collections in America worth \$30m or more. The classic example is Norton Simon, but millionaires who have had a more precarious rise to wealth, such as Saul Steinberg, have caught the bug. These men are not without interest in their subject—and they take the advice of professionals. Some are moving from the main area of buying—contemporary American or 19th century American art—into the Old Master market.

Of course the fact that Americans can enjoy big tax advantages if they give their works of art to museums is one factor behind the recent collecting spree in New York, but many of the new buyers want to create their own private museums rather than give to the Met in return for a tax gain.

It seems dangerous that the world market in works of art, estimated at \$30bn a year, should be so dependent on the American economy. A slump on Wall Street could badly hit confidence, just as, in the past year, the fall in oil prices has brought quietly back on to the market two "new" collections—the Fee Old Masters, which did badly, and the Coral Oriental pictures, which did well.

But perhaps the worst effect of the new buying is that it can encourage ill-founded investment in art. Over the past decade only the finest pieces have appreciated in value. At the middle and lower ends the art market is barely ticking over. As treasures disappear into museums the hunt is on for the super masterpieces: they command high prices. To secure one, rich collectors will move into new fields; for example the New York real estate millionaire, Ian Woodner's purchase of the Vasari page from Chatsworth for £3.24m. He wanted to put his collection into a higher sphere.

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**Antony Thornecroft**

Making All The Trumps, which, as I have said more than once, seems to be a blind spot with many players. Admittedly the heart Queen might have beaten a false card, but the fall of that card favours the line adopted by the declarer.

The second deal, or something like it, occurred in a part contest:

♦ 6 3	♦ 5 2
♦ K 9 7 5	♦ K 9 6 3
♦ K J 7 2	♦ K Q J
♦ 8 4 3	♦ 9 6 5 4
W	E
♦ J 9 4 2	♦ 8
♦ J 6 4 2	♦ Q 10 8
♦ 10 8	♦ Q 9 5 3
* K Q J	* A 9 7 5 2
S	E
* 9 8 7 6 4	* A K Q 10 7 5
* Q J 10 5	* A 8 7 4 2
* 6 5	* A 3
* Q 3	* K J 10 8

With both sides vulnerable, South dealt and opened the bidding with two spades. North said two no trumps, and raised the opener's rebid of three spades to four spades, which became the final contract.

Albert Gamage and his celebrated store in Holborn, then one of the largest outlets for toys in the country, were the initial promoters of Britain's toy soldiers. Their 1906 catalogue read:

"We hold a stock of 500,000 soldiers of all nations, but owing to the exceptional demand at Christmas time, Customers are urged to give their orders as soon as possible."

They offer were "soldiers to shoot"—each one had the barrel of his gun bored out and a spring attached—10d for four complete sets of the Army Medical Service with nurses and wounded, 2s. A presentation case of a complete company of Coldstream Guards and a squadron of Royal Horse Guards was 10s 6d.

Britain's prices in general now range from about £26 for an ordinary guardman—so popular they were made in millions—up to thousands of pounds for a rare set of soldiers.

The Royal Horse Artillery set sold for £7,200 was in mint condition and in its original box, a factor that can add as much as £50 to a £300 set.

This sort of set is rare because of the steel helmets and the khaki. Britain found little boys did not really want drab khaki realistic though it may have been.

He cashed the diamond Ace, crossed to the King, and returned dummy's nine of hearts, ruffing in hand with his remaining trump, the 10. West had to follow suit, and the contract was fulfilled. West's spade Knave ruffed his partner's winning diamond.

The successful declarer tried the play—christened by me

## Saleroom

## BRIDGE

MY FIRST example hand comes from teams-of-four:

N	♦ 6 3
♦ K 9 7 5	♦ 5 2
♦ K J 7 2	♦ K 9 6 3
♦ 8 4 3	♦ K Q J
W	E
♦ J 9 4 2	♦ 8
♦ J 6 4 2	♦ Q 10 8
♦ 10 8	♦ Q 9 5 3
* K Q J	* A 9 7 5 2
S	E
* 9 8 7 6 4	* A K Q 10 7 5
* Q J 10 5	* A 8 7 4 2
* 6 5	* A 3
* Q 3	* K J 10 8

With both sides vulnerable, South dealt and opened the bidding with one no trumps, and raised the opener's rebid of three spades to four spades, which became the final contract.

West started off by making bid, South jumped to four spades, West doubled, and all passed.

West led the heart Queen, East played low, and the spade Ace, and East showed out. He drew the remaining trump, discarding clubs from the table, and played a diamond to the Knave. East took at once, and returned the eight of clubs. South won, cashed dummy's two diamond honours, and went down.

To find West with all five missing trumps was certainly unlucky, but South should have overcome the bad break. When he draws West's five trumps, he should discard dummy's three diamonds, and then follow with the diamond 10, from hand. East wins, but he can do nothing to stop the declarer from obtaining the lead with his club Ace and making the good diamonds. Even if West holds the diamond Ace, a heart return cannot prevent South from making 10 tricks.

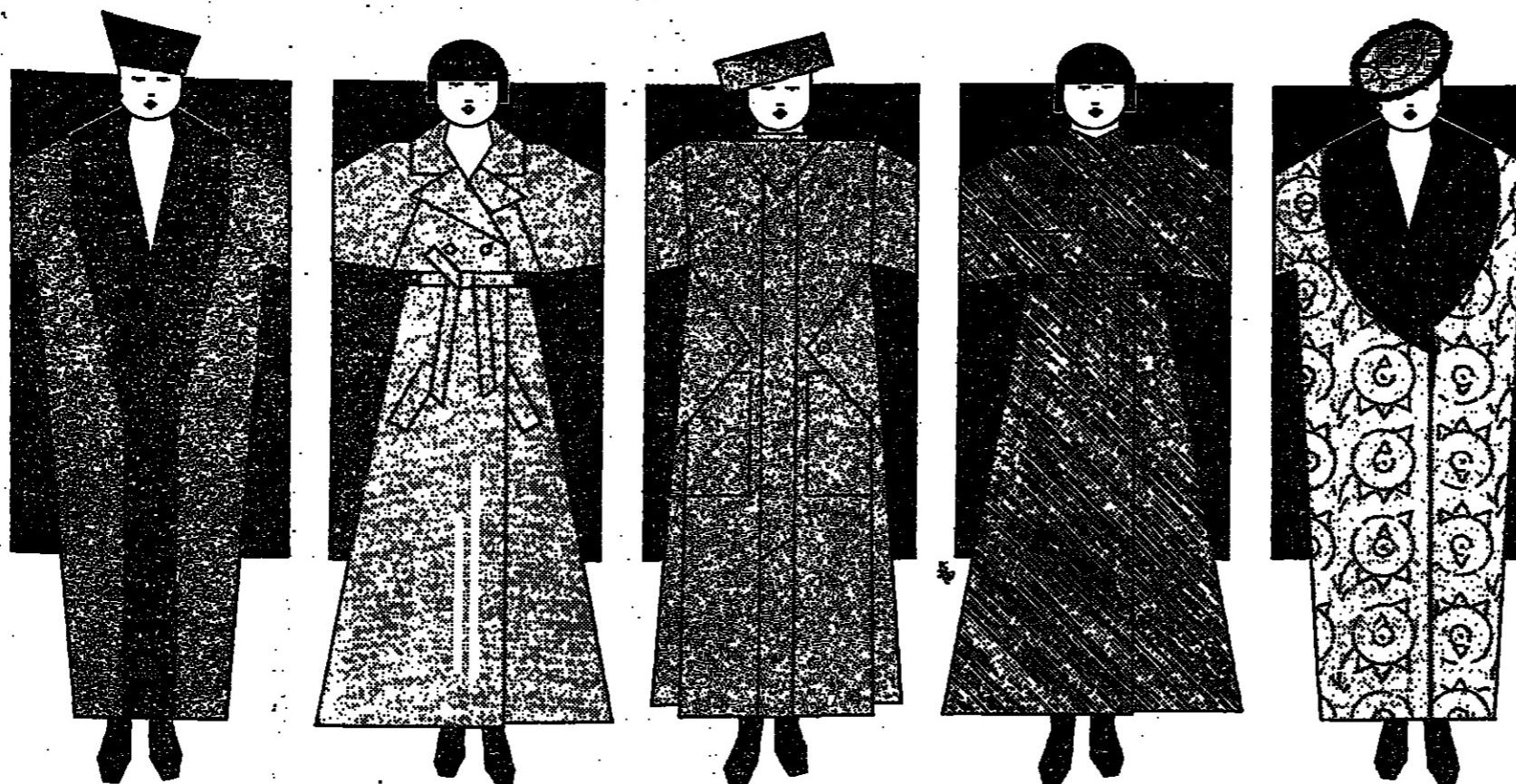
E. P. C. Cotter

June Field

Lucia  
van der  
Post



# Sing hey, ho, the wind and the rain



Pauline Rosenthal

IT IS a wonderful winter for expats. The mood is rich, robust, lavishly wrapped against wind and weather. Velvets and broadscales jostle with silks and satins. Embroidery, fantasy, dressing-up are once again in vogue. The moods are many and this year's coats can take you through from morning to late, late night and back again.

Trenchcoats are no longer just for the rain—cut sharp and sultry they can go to the most glamorous evening event. Velvet looks quite at home by day. Embroidery is once more a permissible daily indulgence. Sketched here are five of the season's most seductive coats—each makes a strong fashion statement, and they are not likely to appeal to shrinking violets, but any of them could be the one big buy that would cheer up your whole wardrobe.

**Lucia van der Post prefers gift hampers personally packed . . .**

## The finest food you can afford

CHRISTMAS wouldn't be Christmas without food. In almost every Christmas tale, every festive message, the two hand in hand. It makes the perfect present both for those who have a lot and for those who have little. There is surely nobody so spoiled that he or she is not encouraged by the sight of a whole ham upon a stand, a round cheese on the sideboard or a fine home-made jelly on the table.

Whether you want to buy food for your larder at home or to give as presents to others, it has never been easier to do. You can spend as much as £1,500 on what Harrods describes as the Ultimate Christmas Luxury. The Supreme Hamper, or you can spend as little as £14.00 on a jar of Apple and Geranium jelly from The Conran Shop. And if you live in the country, or just don't fancy lugging it all back home,

you can order a great deal of it by mail.

Better by far to put together a hamper of one's own. Buy as means of The Hamper. In theory this is a lovely notion. It brings back comforting memories of the tuck-box and has much the same charm as the Christmas stocking—instead of one present immediately revealed as the wrapping-paper comes off, there are the thrills of rummaging through the straw for more delights.

The practice is slightly different. Most of the pre-packed hampers that one would wish to give have the sort of price-tag one could not contemplate. At Harrods and Fortnum & Mason, the two emporia most famous for this sort of thing, those packed with anything substantial cost from £50 upwards.

Prices between £100 and £300 are quite normal. Even these invariably contain something

one would prefer not to eat. They start at £5.95. All these could be filled with food of your own choice. The better baskets can go on to a useful after-life as a work-basket, if not as a picnic basket. If you are feeling particularly generous or have some especially large items to pack, then Graham & Green of 4 and 7 Elgin Crescent, London W11 sell some spacious log-baskets which some of their customers (like Virgin Records whose lucky staff get them for Christmas) buy to fill with goodies. At £9.75 these baskets are a particularly satisfying shape.

Alternatively, Crabtree & Evelyn have commissioned some truly beautiful large tins which could be filled with goodies of your choice. Though the tins cost £4.50 (for the Winter Crabapple scene) and £3.50 (for the Dutch winter scene) empty, you do have to buy at least

something from the Crabtree & Evelyn range to put in—it's not difficult, considering the range of enticing comestibles this firm produces.

For food to fill the hampers, the choice is almost limitless. A lot of fun could be had making them personal, pandering to known foibles and preferences. Philippa Davenport, our cookery correspondent, and I are as one on this matter: we believe the best food to give as presents is the finest you can afford—that does not mean elaborate, but rather that trouble should be taken to track down the best of its kind.

Here are Philippa's suggestions for the sort of edibles she (a country dweller who cannot always find everything she wants in her village shop) would love to receive. Any or all of them would delight almost anybody I know.

• A good vinegar or two (choose from Basalmic, raspberry or blackcurrant, which last is the current "foodie" fad). Some extra virgin oil (now more widely available than ever (see Philippa's update below). Small jars or bottles (because they do not keep well, once opened) of walnut and hazelnut oil.

• Some dried cepes and/or dried chestnuts—both marvellous to have in the store cupboard. Wild rice is desperately expensive, hard to find, but a lovely treat. Orange blossom water (use it in dried fruit salads, or for scenting a proper blancmange, cream or junket).

• Some tiny green lentils from Le Puy. Crabtree & Evelyn's Passionfruit curd (an exotic treat). Some Gentleman's relish. Rodier sardines which

Clothes from left to right

Lush cotton velvet coat, spacious enough to wrap right round. With fake fur lining and collar it is a comforting coat to face the grim winter weather. By Sheridan Barnett in black or brown (a lovely soft mole brown) both with brown fur, it is £250. From Harrods.

almost anything the winter may bring. Designed by a bright new Irish designer, Michael Mortell, it costs £205 and comes in black only. From Joanna's Tent, 289 King's Road, London SW3. Gorge, 32 Barton Street, Bath, and Bowlers of Norwich.

The oversized raincoat by Jasper Conran; cut to swagger, to exaggerate, look bold, and exciting. It slimmers in black, red or brown; made from 65 per cent shot silk and 35 per cent polyester. Shows a proof of but not in itself—adequate full warmth. Wear it with a lining. It costs £157 from Harvey Nichols of Knightsbridge, London SW1. Lucienne Phillips of 89 Knightsbridge, London SW1, Hobby at Cardiff, and Ambers of Amersham.

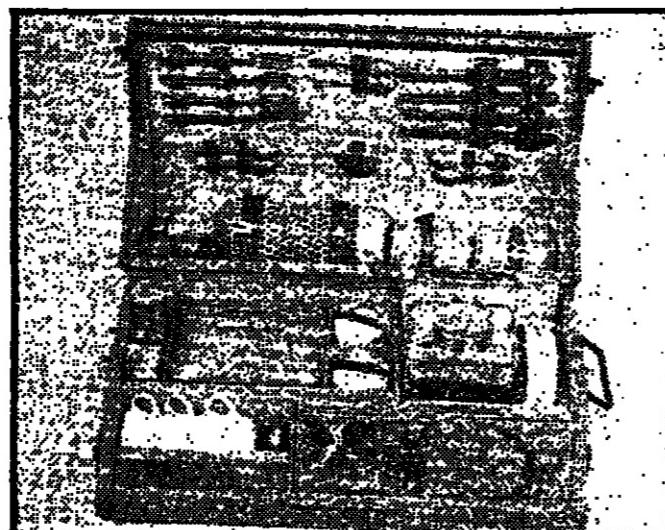
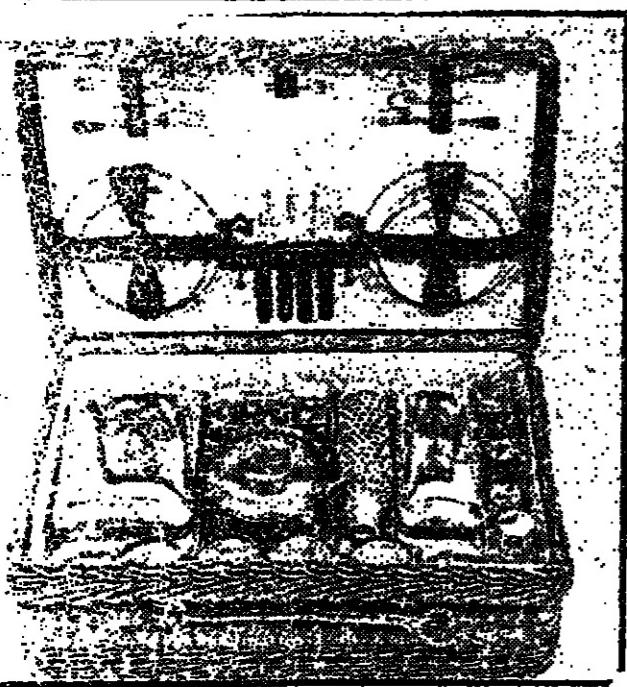
John McIntyre's theatrical brocade coat—a wonderful swirling drama of a coat—made from wool, cotton and viscose, with a fake fur lining and collar. In red, gold, wine and purple with self-coloured embroidery, it costs £500. If the price seems excessive, you will have to hurry because they are—to use the relevant cliché—"walking out of the shop." A matching hat comes in the same colours and with the same fur trim for £22. Find it at Harrods or Harvey Nichols or Roxy of Kensington Church Street, London W8.

add up to much more of a treat than the more standard hampers full of traditional cakes and puddings.

Odd corners can be filled with some crisp polished apples. Townies, in particular, always appreciate home-made chutneys, marmalades, preserves and jams.



Anne Morrow  
Fill a capacious log basket (£9.75 from Graham and Green, 4 and 7 Elgin Crescent, London W11) with goodies of your own choice to make a handsome present.



They don't make hampers today the way they used to. Left, a wicker case with canvas cover, circa 1920, holds proper china, cutlery, ceramic containers and a copper kettle with a burner. Above, the passenger's footrest from a 1910 Rolls-Royce doubled as a hamper. From a selection of antique hampers, £300 upwards at Mansfield, 30-33, Drury Lane, London WC2.

Roger Taylor

... but hampers can be made up to order

IF, HOWEVER, you have run out of time and energy and want to do things the easy way, here are a few addresses that will take care of the hassle and do all the thinking and packaging for you.

Baskets with Love, 707, Fulham Road, London SW3 (tel. 01-731 7988), offers some standard baskets (like the Champagne Celebration or the Bramley Basket, filled with sweet and savoury preserves) but will also make up special orders if you indicate the sort of basket you would like. Prices do not seem cheap (£46, for example, for a bottle of Taittinger, two "futed" glasses and napkins, and some chocolate truffles, all in a basket decorated with silk flowers and ribbons) but the selection is quite varied.

Justin de Blank, 42, Elizabeth Street, London SW1 (tel. 01-730 0605). For my money, one of the best sources of fine food in London. Everything I have ever tasted from here has been of exceptional quality. You can buy a single luxury like a whole or half unpasteurised Blue Stilton, a side of smoked salmon or Gravad lax, some homemade breakfast sausages, or a complete hamper.

Cheapest of his hampers is the No 1 at £35; the only hamper I know that includes not a single thing I would not eat.

Among other delights there is a half-bottle of Justin de Blank champagne, half-bottle of Muscat de Beumes de Venise.

Hampers of Henley, Underwood, Remenham, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon. Tel. Henley (0491) 572114. One of the few companies offering a really inexpensive hamper. For instance,

Most expensive of all is The Cornish Riviera: £88 in a gift

box, or £104.50 in a willow hamper. Once again quite a few tins (like a whole cooked ham and some John West smoked oysters) but otherwise a delicious sounding assortment. For a friend going on a journey The Pullman Pack for Gentlemen is an expensive (£22.50) but elegant parting present; 700 grammes of Stilton and a bottle of Graham's 1978 LBV Port (and he or she does get to keep the willow hamper).

Devon Harvest, Head Mill Trout Farm, Umberleigh, North Devon (tel. 0769 80882) packs hampers for food purists with a ready cheque book. For £165 a group of West Country independent food producers will send a selection of country produce guaranteed entirely free from preservatives, artificial colourings and additives. It sounds delectable—including, as it does, a goose, ham, cheese, cream, smoked trout, bacon, honey, fudges, herbs, sausages, wine and cider.

Tenuta Capraro, and San Bernadino are now available in London and many other towns. For your nearest stockist telephone 01-602 7040.

At the very top end of the market, Badia a Coltabuono (rated best of all) now costs £12.50 per litre whilst the popular San Bernadino retails at approximately £8.95 per litre.

Costly these oils may be, but delicious they certainly are and Christmas isn't a bad time to treat yourself—and others—to this sort of indulgence.

Tuscan estate bottled extra virgin olive oils imported by Colin Price Beech (Castell in Villa, and Fattoria dell'Uovo) are now available in London, Oxford, and in many other towns. For full names and addresses of stockists, telephone 01-730 6377.

Philippa Davenport samples some more virgin oil

EARLY THIS year, when estate bottled olive oils from Tuscany began to be imported here, I attended a tasting and wrote enthusiastically about the delicate fruitiness of these magnificent extra virgin oils.

Another olive oil tasting was held in London recently, and it excited as much greedy pleasure as before. This time there was the added interest of being able to sample factors produced extra virgin olive oil as well as estate produced oils. It wasn't a blind tasting and it was just one industrial offering, apparently chosen at random from a supermarket selection in Italy. This sole factory-produced extra virgin oil was kept separate from the rest, identified as such to pro-

vide a base line against which to judge the others.

The factory extra virgin was generally considered quite olivey, indeed pretty good when tasted in isolation. But once tasters began to dip into the estate produced offerings, the comparisons started and differences in quality were re-marked on in no uncertain terms. Little signs of pleasure were heard here and there, the word elixir was mentioned, and one taster spoke of differences as marked as those between grand cru and vin ordinaire.

When last I wrote, only a handful of retailers were stocking Tuscan estate produced extra virgin olive oils. Now, I am pleased to say, the net has spread much wider.

One immediate effect is that some estates, like Fattoria Selvapiana, have abandoned olive growing altogether and the others have had to increase prices by about 60 per cent.

The oils imported by Charles Carey (Badia a Coltabuono, 101-102 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1) are now available in London, Oxford, and in many other towns. For full names and addresses of stockists, telephone 01-730 6377.

**CHRISTIE'S**  
Finest & Rarest Wines & Collectors' Pieces  
Thursday 5 December 1985 at 11.00 am & 2.30 pm

This highly important sale will feature probably the rarest wine ever sold at Christie's—a 1787 Château Lafite from the cellars of Thomas Jefferson. The bottle, with original cork, is hand-blown and engraved "1787 Lafite Th.J." The colour and level are both excellent for a wine nearly 200 years old.

Collectors' Pieces will include a most unusual 1834 wine strainer cask screw by William Daunt—as well as a selection of eighteenth-century Dutch onion bottles, wine magazines, lithographs and cellar artifacts.

Wines are now being accepted for sales in the New Year. For programme and details of forthcoming sales please contact Rosie Sharp.

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Don't send the usual bottle of Scotch. Surprise your friends or clients with a specially selected premium beer or liqueur.

Lorraine Special Export from Germany, The London Beer Company, 100-102 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1, Caledonia Carlsberg, or any other major British Export traditional beers etc. Any single product of 24 bottles, or a mixed case containing 24 bottles, is available at just £22.50 per case and VAT.

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Delivery anywhere in the UK and abroad within 7 days of receipt of order. Send airmail to Worldwide Beer Importers Ltd., 101-102 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1, Tel: 01-508 2034.

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## ARTS

## Exhibition

## The old in the new Japan

*To the right:* Tradition in Japan Today is a festival of contemporary visual art in Japan that consciously embraces traditional materials and practices. It has been brought to the Barbican (until January 28) in London by the Japan Foundation and the Wacoku and Kyocera Corporations of Kyoto. With its two main exhibitions, its subsidiary shows, characteristic installations and practical demonstrations it offers insights into a culture that is a considerable yet easily misunderstood force in our modern world.

I must say at once, however, that one who earlier this year was a guest of the Japan Foundation for just three weeks, found that it would be a mistake to expect too much of this festival of Tradition. It is no blockbuster, rather smaller indeed than its publicity might suggest, and hardly exhaustive. The caveat is offered more in the spirit of praise and reassurance than criticism, for it would also be quite wrong to expect too little. If the selection is limited, it is also representative and significant. By it we may begin to understand that for the Japanese the past is still very much a function of the present, a principal element in a living culture.

The condition is enviable; the tension thus generated in the attempt to come to terms with Western political, economic, technological and cultural pressures and necessities are less but it is clear that the Japanese do not take the easy way of mocking their established institutions and traditional practices by default, giving up their civility to tourism and merchandising and trivialising themselves away. So, when we look at the continuing traditional practice in the visual arts and crafts, and the performing puppets and their chariots, we must see not a base commercial, backward-looking, tourist-exploiting survi-



Imaginary portrait of the artist Utagawa Kunisada painted in the old manner by Tamako Kataoka

brought to this present level of sophistication in the 17th and 18th centuries and a number of the tableaux here, both figures and structures, date from the late 18th century, though there are also some modern models and replicas.

Downstairs in the lower gallery a sand and rock garden and a spring with its pool and bamboo bird-scarer have been installed. There is also a drawing master's pavilion, with ancillary displays and film of artists' methods and materials, and farther on a traditional tea house where at intervals the Tea Ceremony is elucidated with beautiful and unsatisfied clarity by our own tea master, Michael Birch.

Lower still, the Concourse Gallery on Level 5 holds the other main show, an extraordinary display of Kurokuri Ningyo, the mechanical puppets and their tall chariots that are still paraded through the streets at festivals. The techniques of mechanical animation were first developed in China more than 2,500 years ago and were taken to Japan in the middle of the 7th century AD. They were

William Packer

WHEN Fiona Halton, 28, said that the steady decline of the British Film Industry had to be reversed, muffled laughter could be heard the length and breadth of Wardour Street. But in the six months since she launched the British Film Year campaign, cinema attendances have gone up 35 per cent on last year's figures. British Film Year's target was a 4 per cent increase.

Fiona Halton's achievements were acknowledged by industry at large on Tuesday when she was presented with the first British Sales and Marketing Award for showing the most initiative and achieving the greatest success in selling or marketing a British product.

As director of the Association of Independent Producers, Ms Halton had been as concerned about the slump in British cinema as anyone in the industry. Audiences were falling and American exporters, predicting a further decline, questioned the value of releasing anything but blockbusters on the UK market. Declining cinema revenues meant that fewer investors were prepared

to back British productions and that new British films had to aim for the US market to

Nigel Andrews visits the 21st Chicago Film Festival

## Chaos is a special effect

AS WITH Chicago's tallest skyscrapers, whose tops regularly disappear into the clouds, it is possible to be impressed by the Chicago Film Festival while being deeply puzzled as to what goes on in its decision-making top floor. Twenty-one this year, the festival is still the proud offspring of founder-director Michael Kutz. It is the only major competitive film festival in the US; it has a packed programme (over 100 films); it is lavishly hospitable to guests; and it ropes in star film people to discuss their work. This year's VIPs were Arthur Penn, Russ Meyer and Warren Franklin (vice-president of Lucas' Industrial Light and Magic, the biggest special effects "factory" in the world).

Sense, however, does not quite match spectacle. The film is thrillingly staged but self-defeatingly overstated. The camera surges like a creature possessed across landscapes heaving with suffering. (Its

miraculous mobility across swamps or through thick forests suggests that Klimov had a supernormal cameraman.) But as one enormity is piled on another while the boy stares out at us with his unchanging look of traumatised stupor, Klimov seems to me to miss the point of Nazi evil: that it was the methodical nature of its fanaticism, rather than any crudely operatic glee, that made the six-year stamina of its effort so horrific. This is a film in which less would have been far, far more.

Mozart's Requiem pounds our ears in the film's concluding frames. And there was more Mozaritanina elsewhere in the festival (after Amadeus, the de-

lude?) The Viennese music brat was present in Pupi Avati's sprightly elegiac *We Three* from Italy, with its summer-dappled glimpse of the young Mozart in love, and in Slavo Luther's ingenious *Forget Mozart* from West Germany. In this locked-room whodunit a group of suspects, gathered round the dead Mozart's bed, are sifted for means, motive and opportunity, *ris-à-vis* knocking off the maestro, by an investigating magistrate (Armin Mueller-Stahl). The movie even had the chutzpah to use Amadeus's old sets and costumes.

For those still Mozart-hungry there was Andre Delvach's *Babel Opera*, flimsy but euphonious as it interweaves a fictional loves tory with a real-life rehearsal for Brussels' *Don Giovanni*. (José Van Dam, Stuart Burrows and Ashley Putnam among the songbirds).

Sleeper of the festival was Fina Torres's *Oriana*, a flashback-filled Venezuelan-French film about a woman revisiting the jungle-lapped hacienda where she grew up—with the titular Aunt Oriana—and discovered love, sex and the mysteries of that world. Delicate and haunting.

Clinker of the festival—though in no way the festival's fault—was Aziz Chhalal's *Before and After*, a chunk of derivative sturm und drang by a young director who must once have had *Touch of Evil* dropped on his head from a great height and at a too impressionable age.

Fiasco of the festival—though in no way the festival's fault—was its abortive British Film Year tribute. This was to have been a gala gathering-up of 30 odd UK movies of recent years, from the *Gandhi*-and-Chariots end of the spectrum to the shoe-string independent film plus visiting celebrities. But distributors and production companies responded so lamely to the call to show their wares at America's most prestigious film festival that festival director Kutz ended up with a mere half-dozen low-voltage features and no accompanying VIPs.



Soviet director Elem Klimov's film "Go and See" misses the point of Nazi evil

## Records

## Straussian strains

deepest Tyrian.

The title-role is sung by Reiner Goldberg, the Bayreuth Siegfried who never was but who on this evidence should be one day. Even in gramophone terms the part makes inhuman demands, which apart from the odd husky top note are consistently met. His tone, regular and firm, follows the centre of notes, has substance and colour, his phrasing is unobtrusively sensitive, and his diction is superb. The rest of the cast on this CBS-Hungaroton co-production is from Budapest, and very fine too. Strauss's writing for soprano reminds us what an exceptional singer Pauline de Ahna—so soon to be his wife—must have been, and here only momentary insecurity in the highest regions lets Iona Tókoly down; otherwise her bright, heroic tone and sense of Straussian line make one long to hear her as the Empress, say, or Helena.

Meanwhile, this outstandingly successful first recording of the 1940 revision provides much food for thought. Although the hand of Wagner lies heavily on plot, libretto (the composer's own, and pretty shy-making) and motivic musical syntax, there are substantial passages—especially for soprano—that could only have been written by Strauss. The orchestration, also revised, is consistently inventive, and the score is full of the sort of long-breathed, rapturous melodies that no Strauss will want to be without. The purple passages may follow jerkily one upon another, but they are of

less to do but do it well in acceptable German, and there is an especially vivid portrait of the heroine's father from Sölyom-Nagy. Eve Queler, coincidentally also in charge of the only recording of *Edgar*, paces the unevenly constructed score convincingly and draws assured, eloquent playing from the Hungarian State Orchestra. The recorded sound is up to today's highest standards. Add a lip-smackingly luscious Frank Dicksee on the box-top, and you have a set that Strauss-lovers will fall upon with ravenous

Rodney Milnes

background. *Penge*, which is not all that impossible to imagine as southern equivalent to Prestwich. The main difference is Mr Jacobson's affection for Prestwich and Mr Wright's sneering approach to Penge.

These fairly short slots must be awkward to fill, once you have run the gamut of short stories, books at bedtime, and so on. Radio 4 has just embarked on *Enthusiasts*, which should offer some scope. Last Wednesday's enthusiasts started up old American cars and drove them around Chelsea once a week, a pursuit as seems to me as intellectual as, though more expensive than, train-spotting. But one doesn't look for intellectual enthusiasm, which would be a bore. I don't see that the weekly *Chesterfield* isn't better, but it pleased people who didn't live in Chester.

The good news is that the Colour Supplement is to be taken out of Sunday mornings. The bad news is that it will appear on Saturday mornings.

B. A. Young

Solution to Chess No. 596 (d). The game ended 1 R-R4! Q-N7; 2 N-Q1, Q-N8, 3 P-QB4; Q-N6; 4 E-QB2 and Black's Queen trapped resigned.

## A rosy future

to back British productions and that new British films had to aim for the US market to

There have been trailers, cartoon film workshops and live music.

The campaign has also attempted to force permanent links within local communities: 40 committees have been set up comprising councillors, cinema managers and local journalists, all meeting regularly to promote film. Local authorities and commerce have donated up to £100,000 to the roadshows.

All these factors have contributed to a healthier outlook for British cinema. In 1980 UK cinemas sold 500m tickets. By 1985 this figure had fallen to 51m. But at the end of this year, marked by the launch of British Film Year in the spring, it is estimated that there will have been 70m attendances. Cinema is beginning to win its audiences back. Fiona Halton, encouraging the continuation of local initiatives long after British Film Year folds next spring, hopes to keep them coming.

The campaign's activities at home have generated the equivalent of \$6m worth of free publicity—measured by computing the cost of equivalent advertising rates. In every city visited by the roadshow, this coverage is estimated to have reached each inhabitant at least twice.

This upsurge in publicity for the home-grown film industry has coincided with refurbishment schemes from the big cinema chains and with the first signs of decline in the number of film cassettes rented since the video revolution three years ago.

Another successful British Film Year scheme has been its educational drive. More than 20,000 study documents on current films have been distributed to 4,000 schools and 26 education authorities are giving out the campaign's material. Postage stamps commemorating five British-born stars and film makers were issued in October and November. Abroad, British Film Year has, on a budget of £70,000, worked to sell the virtues of British film-making at international film festivals.

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This upsurge in publicity for the home-grown film industry has coincided with refurbishment schemes from the big

Private view

## Literacy first

**SIXTY** Precarious Years is the theme of the National Book League's jubilee, celebrated this week with a book launch at the Banqueting House in Whitehall, London, and it is also the title of the book written to mark the occasion. Well, there would have to be a book.

The business of the NBL has been from the beginning, is now and with a little more luck shall be the promotion of books and reading, nationwide. "It should really be Reading and Books, I think. That may seem a small point, but it is im-

portant to remember what our priorities are," says Martyn Goff, NBL director since 1970. He is a tireless energetic campaigner on a shoe-string; iron man for what is at once a consumers' organisation of the book trade and a flying pocket for the education and library services.

The NBL's Centre for Children's Books is a national treasure: a library of titles, constantly updated, with reference books and a range of nearly 60 periodicals; a world-wide repository of child-based reading, from the Beatrix Potter Society (four issues a year, subscription £4) to the Schools Poetry Review.

Apart from special exhibitions, 30 NBL touring exhibitions are presently on three-year progress around the country, on hire to libraries, schools, social centres, for £20 a fortnight.

The NBL participate in national and international book symposia, fairs and festivals; co-ordinates events and competitions for the Children's Book Week sponsored by Lloyds Bank and administers more than 200

kind

Mr Holroyd argues, to powerfully persuasive effect, that in a world where English is ever more widely used and read, the currency of our language converts to currency in the money sense, and deserves official recognition and support.

The book trade is primarily — and properly — concerned with making a profit. In contrast, the NBL is as happy if someone borrows a book as if they buy it: using and reading count for more than commerce, and there can be no argument about that. Precariously, desperately in need of stronger trade and public support, it is having a happy birthday.

Gay Firth

19 Go up South in Arab ship to Crift? (3, 4)

21 Love in a ship in style (7)

23 Area for religious propaganda? (5)

25 Seat for works of art (4)

27 Point for a thorn? (5)

29 Name for most of African country that said No to the French? (8)

31 Colonial, perhaps, with right to hold forth about (10)

33 It's oddly noticed, with both hands up (4-4)

35 A harvest with a goblin in charge that's afraid of heights (10)

37 Drink time ahead? (8)

39 Piece of printing from advertiser, 1 fear (5)

41 Jewish name on letter with time and purpose (7)

43 Nothing to spend without brains going sideways? (7)

45 Sign of pipe or can? (5, 7)

47 DOWN

2 Two horse-drawn vehicles belonging to Venus? (3-4)

3 Hole found in these unusual descriptions (8)

4 Christmas number on rail-road (4)

5 Blockage of a speaker coming up in preference? (10)

6 Peace for all real number included? (5)

7 An hundred miles per hour, ten for the Merchant? (7)

8 Submarine passage for church girl turning num— tell! (7, 6)

9 Time to drink, possibly conforming with payment? (7, 6)

14 Record — French love it! — not mine, I say (10)

17 Piper the painter? (8)

19 Go up South in Arab ship to Crift? (3, 4)

21 Love in a ship in style (7)

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2 Two horse-drawn vehicles belonging to Venus? (3-4)

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